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A HISTORICAL ACCOUNT
OF
THE SERVICES
OF THE
34TH & 55TH REGIMENTS,
THE LINKED LINE BATTALIONS
IN THE 2ND OR CUMBERLAND & WESTMORLAND
SUB-DISTRICT BRIGADE,
FROM THE PERIODS OF THEIR FORMATION UNTIL
THE PRESENT TIME.

COMPILED FROM THE MOST AUTHENTIC SOURCES

BY

GEORGE NOAKES,

Quarter-Master Serjeant, 2nd Brigade Depôt.

CARLISLE :
C. THURNAM AND SONS, ENGLISH STREET.

1875.

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TO

COLONEL HUGH ROWLANDS, V.C.,

AND THE

OFFICERS OF THE 34TH CUMBERLAND REGIMENT,

BRIGADIER-GENERAL R. HUME, C.B.,

LIEUTENANT-COLONEL JOHN R. HUME,

AND THE

OFFICERS OF THE 55TH WESTMORLAND REGIMENT,

AND TO

COLONEL EDWARD NEWDIGATE

AND THE

OFFICERS OF THE 2ND BRIGADE DEPOT,

THIS LITTLE WORK

IS RESPECTFULLY DEDICATED

BY THE AUTHOR.



Stephen Spaulding mem Coll
Edwards
12-6-37

P R E F A C E.

The writer of the following pages has long noticed how few regiments there are in the British Army whose history is known to the general public, or even to the soldiers serving in them. This is no doubt due, in most cases, either to the records of such as have been published being sold at so high a price as to preclude most persons from purchasing them, or else to the cheap pamphlets which have appeared in others having given the veriest outline of its career, and, consequently, very little real information. In some regiments even this little information is unobtainable, and tradition alone imparts to each generation of soldiers some little idea of the deeds of the regiment in former days. The writer believes he is correct in saying that no history of the 55th has ever before been published; and as that of the 34th exists only in "Cannon's Historical Records," which, however, come down to no later date than 1845, his humble efforts to delineate their deeds of bravery and daring will, he thinks, fill a void in military literature which abler hands can improve upon, but which at present offers an opportunity to every man in the two regiments, and also to every one interested in their career, of becoming acquainted with their

services from their formation to the present time. His inexperience in the fields of literature will, he trusts, excuse the imperfections which critical eyes will find in this his first literary effort; but as the whole of the information has been gathered with the greatest care from undeniably trustworthy sources, he has, he thinks, little to fear as regards the facts brought forward in this little volume. Of the composition he is more diffident; there is no fine writing, or "word-painting," it being but a humble effort to tell in a plain, unvarnished manner, the history of two regiments hitherto strangers to each other, but now destined to be sister battalions, they having been, under the new localization scheme, linked together in the Cumberland and Westmorland Brigade.

G. N.

CARLISLE,

May, 1875.

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A HISTORICAL ACCOUNT OF THE 34TH & 55TH REGIMENTS.

CHAPTER I.

Towards the end of the seventeenth century the restless spirit of aggression displayed by Louis XIV of France, especially in the placing of his grandson, Philip of Anjou, on the Spanish throne, to the exclusion of Charles III, the rightful king, caused a combination of the European powers to resist his encroachments upon the balance of power, which afterwards went by the name of the Grand Alliance. To carry out the purposes of this alliance, England agreed to furnish forty thousand men; and in consequence of this, a considerable augmentation was made to the British army. One of the corps formed at this time was the 34th Regiment, the Colonelcy being given to Lieutenant-Colonel Robert Lord Lucas, of Sir J. Jacob's Regiment (now the 13th Foot), by commission from King William III, dated the 12th February, 1702. The men were raised in Norfolk, Essex, and the adjoining counties, Colchester being the rendezvous of one wing of the regiment and Norwich of the other. When its numbers were nearly complete, the establishment was augmented from ten to twelve companies, of three officers and sixty-six non-commissioned officers and men each. At this time, and for a century later, the field officers of infantry regiments held double commissions, being also Captains of companies; but the Colonel's company, which ranked the first in the regiment, was commanded by the senior Subaltern, who was styled Captain-Lieutenant, and relieved the Colonel of the actual charge of the company that he might be the better enabled to attend to that of the entire regiment.

The 34th was not completely formed when King William died, and on the accession of Queen Anne, on the 8th March, it took the oath of allegiance to Her Majesty. Early in May five companies were ordered to Landguard Fort, Sheerness, and Tilbury, to relieve the Buffs, about to proceed to Spain, and the remaining seven were sent to the Tower of London to relieve a detachment of the Foot Guards, from whence two companies were afterwards sent to Dover Castle. On the return of the expedition from Spain, the 34th was concentrated in the Tower, and after drafting three hundred men to fill up the ranks of the 6th Regiment, in the West Indies, proceeded in December to Chelmsford to recruit. In the following spring it marched to Hull, Berwick, and Carlisle, at which places it remained until the next year.

In May, 1705, it formed part of an expedition sent to Spain under the Earl of Peterborough, to effect a landing on the coast, and further the progress of the cause of the Archduke Charles. On arrival at Lisbon, additional forces were embarked on board the fleet, including the Archduke himself, and another reinforcement was obtained at Gibraltar, from whence the whole proceeded to the Bay of Altea, in Valencia. The siege of Barcelona, the capital of Catalonia, having been decided upon, his Lordship landed his men on the 23rd and 24th August, and at once commenced operations. Barcelona had been by some deemed impregnable, because it had a few years before successfully held out for two months against a French army of thirty thousand men; but although he had only seven thousand men, and the city was garrisoned by five thousand, Lord Peterborough was undismayed, and eventually his courage and constancy was rewarded by perfect success. The city was protected by the detached fortress of Montjuich, and this, on the 14th September, he attacked with about three hundred men, of which the grenadiers of the 34th formed a part, and effectually established himself in it; and a few days after, when he had effected a breach and was preparing to storm the town, Barcelona surrendered, which was followed by the submission of the whole of the province of Catalonia. After a short stay at this place the 34th were sent to form part of the garrison of Tortosa, on the left bank of the Ebro, where they were stationed some time.

The fall of Barcelona had caused great astonishment throughout Europe, and King Philip was not the man to

quietly submit to the loss of one of his best provinces; he therefore, early in 1706, endeavoured to retake it. The city was now very feebly garrisoned, and among other troops drawn in for its defence was the 34th Regiment. It was quartered at a distance of one hundred and twenty miles, but it was hurried on mules to the scene of danger, and accomplishing the journey in two days, it arrived at Barcelona on the 31st March, and at once mounted guard on the works. Just as the regiment had gone on duty the French attacked the out-works of Fort Montjuich, where only one hundred men of the 34th were stationed, but they were repulsed in gallant style. The siege was continued, but without any good results to the French, and on the arrival of the combined English and Dutch fleets with reinforcements, the besiegers, seeing that all hope of success was gone, raised the siege on the 12th May and retreated to France. An immediate advance upon Madrid was ordered, but after reaching the capital the allied armies were obliged, by the re-entry of the French into Spain, to retire into Valencia and Murcia.

In the spring of 1707, and before the army took the field, the 34th Regiment was so greatly reduced in numbers that it was ordered to return to England to recruit, after transferring to other corps all the privates fit for duty. Whilst the officers and non-commissioned officers were awaiting embarkation, the allies were defeated in the disastrous battle of Almanza, which was fought on the 25th April, and by which the hopes of the Archduke were for a time considerably abated. Their embarkation was therefore delayed; but during the autumn they arrived in England, and the 34th was soon filled up again with recruits.

In the spring of the following year, the 34th proceeded towards the north for the purpose of assisting to repel a threatened invasion of Scotland by the French in favour of the Pretender; but the English fleet having dispersed the expedition, the 34th, who had got no further than Leeds, countermarched to the south, and in July embarked on board the fleet under Sir George Byng, which in retaliation had been fitted with an expedition against the French coast. After approaching it early in August, and menacing it on several points, and thus making diversions in favour of the allied army, they proceeded to Ostend, where they arrived on the 21st September, and the 34th were landed and posted at the village

of Leffingham. The regiment, with four others, afterwards returned to Ostend, and were embarked under Brigadier-General Wynne for Antwerp, where they were stationed until the end of the campaign. During the whole of 1709 the 34th was employed on garrison duty, but in the following April quitted its quarters and proceeded to join the army on the frontiers of France, under the celebrated Duke of Marlborough. During the siege of Douay, which surrendered on the 27th June, it greatly distinguished itself, losing in the operations one officer and eighty-one men killed, and five officers and one hundred and twenty-five men wounded; and having afterwards joined the main army, was employed in covering the sieges of Aire and St. Venant, both of which were captured before the end of the campaign, when it went into winter quarters among the Walloon peasantry. During the year 1711, the regiment took part in the siege of Bouchain, which capitulated in September, and in 1712 encamped at Cateau-Cambresis, and covered the siege of Quesnoy; but on a suspension of arms withdrew to Ghent, from whence, on the 4th August, it was detached with other corps to Dunkirk, which had been delivered into the hands of the English as a pledge of the sincerity of the French, who had solicited peace. Here it was stationed until the peace of Utrecht, when it returned to England, and in consequence of a great reduction in the army, was ordered to be disbanded and the officers placed upon half-pay. This reduction included all the regiments from the 30th to the 39th; in fact, all which had been raised after the peace of Ryswick in 1697, except the 28th and 29th Regiments.

On the 1st August, 1714, Queen Anne died, and the Elector of Hanover ascended the throne as George I. He, however, was not suffered to enjoy it long in quietness. Some of the Pretender's friends commenced agitating on his behalf, and the Earl of Mar went so far as to raise the standard of rebellion. The king thereupon augmented his forces by restoring several of the reduced regiments; and in the summer of 1715 the 34th was restored to its old place in the army, under its former commander, Colonel Thomas Chudleigh, but remained in England until 1717, when it was moved over to Ireland, where it was quartered until the early part of 1719. Although the rebellion in Scotland had so signally failed, Spain continued to sympathize with the Pretender, and despatched six thousand men to aid his cause in the north; but the expedition

was scattered by a storm off Cape Finisterre, and the British Government, by way of reprisal, sent Lord Cobham to the Spanish coast, with which force the 34th embarked in September, 1719, and sailed from the Isle of Wight. The fleet entered Vigo harbour on the 29th, seized seven Spanish ships, and landed the troops the next day, who forced the garrisons of both Vigo and San Sebastian to surrender, and captured a great quantity of arms, ammunition, and stores, most of which had been prepared for the service of the Pretender.

Returning to England, the 34th proceeded to Ireland, where it remained until the beginning of 1727, when it embarked for Gibraltar, then besieged by a Spanish army under the Count de la Torres. Unfortunately, a storm so damaged the transports as to necessitate their return to Plymouth. Only six companies of the 34th reached port, the remainder of the regiment having been lost in the storm; but shortly afterwards they resumed the voyage, and, in company with the 25th Regiment, arrived at Gibraltar on the 26th March, and were soon followed by other corps. After a very gallant defence, and the endurance of a tremendous cannonade from the besiegers, they were rewarded by the cessation of hostilities on the part of the Spaniards, who it appears had caused themselves more damage than they had done the garrison, and who now left Gibraltar until a more convenient season. In 1728, on the conclusion of peace, the 34th returned to Ireland, and remained there, "conspicuous for its good conduct in quarters," until the autumn of 1739, when it was ordered to England. In the following year a detachment served on board the fleet as marines, a common occurrence in those days and for many years after, even subsequently to the year 1755, when the present corps of Royal Marines was organized.

When the war of the Austrian Succession broke out in 1743, a British army, sixteen thousand strong, was despatched to Flanders to support the claims of the Archduchess Maria Theresa to succeed her father, the late Emperor Charles VI of Germany, in his hereditary dominions, against the Prussians, Bavarians, and eventually the French. In June, 1744, the 34th embarked to join the British forces, and joined it on the banks of the Scheldt, but after penetrating to the vicinity of Lisle it returned to Flanders, and there passed the winter. The next April found the French, under Marshal Saxe, laying siege to Tournay, and to relieve the town the Duke of

Cumberland assembled his whole force and marched towards it. On their approach the French took up a strong position at the village of Fontenoy, while another strong body covered the besiegers. The first of these was assigned to the Dutch troops, while the latter was to be attacked by the British, who reached their ground on the night of the 29th April, and though greatly fatigued, lay on their arms all night eagerly awaiting the enemy. On the morning of the 30th the battle began. After a brief contest the Dutch gave way, and this threw the brunt of the engagement upon the British, who, after shewing great gallantry and succeeding in breaking the French line, were exposed to a galling flank fire and forced to retire. The 34th performed so conspicuous a part in covering the retreat of the army through the village of Vezont to the town of Aeth, that it was granted the high honour of bearing a laurel wreath on its colours and appointments, and also the privilege of wearing the "royal worm" in the lace of their drummers' coats, so that for performing a good retreat it received a greater reward than for all its victories.* During these operations the regiment, which was also complimented for its admirable conduct during the battle, lost eighteen men killed, and seven officers and fifty-five men wounded, and twenty-eight missing, a total loss of one hundred and eight officers and men. It was afterwards encamped on the plains of Lessines, and employed in some defensive operations, but in September was ordered home in consequence of the efforts made by the young Pretender to regain for his father the throne of England. Leaving the camp at Vilvorde on the 13th, it embarked at Williamstadt on the 19th, and landed at Blackwall on the Thames on the 23rd September, from whence it proceeded to Newcastle and joined the force under Field-Marshal Wade.

The 34th was now brigaded with the 3rd, 13th, and 48th Regiments, with which it marched by Durham, Darlington,

* The distinction of the laurel wreath seems to have been in abeyance for many years, it not appearing amongst their "honours" in the Queen's Regulations of either 1844 or 1859. It was, however, afterwards revived, and the 34th is now the only regiment which bears this emblem upon its colours. The distinctive drummers' lace was abolished in 1873, when a general raid was made by the authorities upon regimental devices and distinctions, and universal patterns adopted for the whole service.

and Richmond, to cover Yorkshire from the rebels who had penetrated far into England, and on the 8th December it had arrived at Ferrybridge. But Prince Charlie was now retreating from Derby, and the brigade was engaged in the attempt to intercept his return to Scotland; he, however, escaped them, and crossed the Border from Cumberland. In January, 1746, the regiment marched to Edinburgh, and from thence towards Stirling, with the troops under General Hawley, to force the rebels to raise the siege of Stirling Castle. On the 16th Hawley halted and encamped his army, consisting of thirteen battalions of infantry and three regiments of dragoons, at Falkirk, from which the rebels were only seven miles distant; but as he did not make an immediate advance, they on the following morning assumed the offensive by marching out of their camp to attack him. Advancing in two divisions from opposite directions they were able, through the supineness of General Hawley, to conceal their movements until quite close to the English camp, and were even allowed to form line of battle on the moor without molestation. At length, however, Hawley led his men forward to attack them; but the Highlanders soon adopted their favourite custom of throwing away their muskets after their first fire and rushing on the foe sword in hand, and made so desperate an onslaught upon him that his right and centre was soon broken, and after a fierce struggle, in which he had between four and five hundred killed, of whom twenty were officers, the royal army was compelled to leave the field to the victorious followers of Prince Charlie, and to retire to Edinburgh. Among the officers killed was Lieutenant-Colonel Powell, the commander of the 34th Regiment.

The Duke of Cumberland, who had been appointed to command the whole forces, and had in the previous month taken Carlisle from the rebels, now joined the army and assumed the command; and on the 31st retook possession of Stirling Castle, from which Prince Charlie had retreated towards Perth. Hither the Duke followed them, but halting at Perth, in consequence of the severity of the weather, and resuming his march on the 20th February towards Aberdeen, which he reached early in March. After a month's delay, caused by the heavy rains and snow storms, he started on the 8th April towards Inverness, and crossing without opposition the deep and rapid river Spey, the passage of which he ex-

pected would have been disputed by the rebels, reached Nairn on the 14th, from which they were encamped only twelve miles distant. Hearing that the royal army was in the vicinity of Nairn, Prince Charlie, whose main body lay at Culloden, formed the intention of surprising the Duke in his camp; and on the following night marched his Highlanders in three columns towards Nairn for this purpose, but through some mismanagement they did not get near enough to attack before sunrise, and the intended surprise having proved a failure, the Highlanders, weary and hungry (they had received no rations since the 14th), retraced their steps and threw themselves on Culloden Moor to seek repose. Unfortunately for them, the Duke marched on the same morning, and by-and-bye came upon them in battle array on the moor. The Highlanders did not now number more than five thousand men, with a few pieces of artillery, for at least two thousand of them had dispersed in search of food, not expecting to be attacked that morning, so that the superiority was altogether on the Duke's side, who had eight thousand infantry and nine hundred cavalry; but the Highlanders, following the mode of attack which had resulted so successfully at Falkirk, threw themselves so desperately upon the British bayonets* that the left of the Duke's first line was thrown into confusion. The second line, however, came up to its support, and after a brief but bloody struggle the rebels were thoroughly beaten and dispersed, and the gallant Prince Charlie was a fugitive. In this decisive engagement the loss of the vanquished army amounted to upwards of one thousand, whilst that of the victors numbered scarcely more than three hundred. Of these the 34th, which was in the right wing of the first line, were so fortunate as to lose only three men out of twenty-four officers and four hundred and thirty-five men engaged. On the suppression of the rebellion, the 34th was stationed in England, and in 1749 placed on the peace establishment, but early in 1752 was sent to the Balearic Islands and quartered in Minorca.†

* It is stated that the 4th Foot, which was the first that met the shock of the assailants, stood so firm that every bayonet in the regiment was either bloody or bent!

† The uniform of the 34th at this time consisted of three-cornered cocked hats, bound with white lace, and ornamented with a white loop and a black cockade; scarlet coats, faced and lined with bright yellow, and ornamented with white lace, scarlet waistcoats and breeches, and white gaiters.

The British forces were not permitted a long period of repose; their old foes, the French, soon found means of provoking hostilities, and 1755 found England again on the eve of war. North America was this time the cause of the quarrel. Here the French laid claim to a large tract of country settled by English colonists, and in spite of all remonstrances from the British Government drove off the settlers and built a fort thereon which they called Fort Du Quesne. To destroy this fort General Braddock was sent with a small force, but through his inexperience of warfare in a forest country he allowed himself to be surprised, and in the action which ensued one-half his force was rendered *hors-de-combat* and himself killed. England now took up the matter in earnest, and eleven regiments were added to the army, one of which of four battalions was to be raised in America. Among those regiments was the present 55th, which was formed at Stirling early in January, 1756, by Colonel George Perry, whose commission was dated 25th December, 1755. It may appear strange that so soon after the unhappy events of '45 the Government should have gone so far north for a recruiting field; but the Highlanders formed such good soldiers that it was thought their prowess might, without much difficulty, be enlisted into the service of King George, so that their warlike propensities might be taken advantage of and diverted into happier currents than had been done during the late unhappy times. The experiment seems to have so well succeeded, that for some time after Stirling appears to have been a favourite place for raising regiments for the British army; but of all these the 55th seems to have been the only one not distinguished by the appellation "Highland," which title is still retained by those other corps which are yet remaining in the Army List. The ranks of the 55th* were soon filled by the hardy northmen, and a few months after it was moved over to the west of Ireland, preparatory to embarking for North America, for which service it was destined.

The first incident in this war was the capture of the island

* The regiment was first numbered the 57th, but in 1757 two regiments (the 50th and 51st) having been disbanded in America it was placed two numbers forward in the Army List, and thus became the 55th. Its uniform was similar to that previously described for the 34th, except that their scarlet coats were lined and faced with *dark green*.

of Minorca by the French. This island, which had been long coveted by them, and which should therefore have been guarded by the British with unremitting attention whether in peace or war, had been most shamefully neglected; the fortifications were in an almost ruinous condition; numbers of the officers were on leave of absence, and the garrison, consisting of the 4th, 23rd, 24th, and 34th Regiments, with a detachment of artillery, could only number three thousand three hundred and eighty men. Aware of the comparative helpless condition of the island, the French prepared an expedition of sixteen thousand men, under the Marshal Richelieu, with a large park of artillery, with the avowed object of capturing it. As soon as General Blakeney heard of their intentions, he immediately commenced to place the Castle of St. Philip, which stood at the entrance of the harbour of Port Mahon, in a proper state of defence, in which he was ably seconded by Major Cunningham, the engineer. He knew that against so large an armament he could not expect to hold out for any great length of time, but he also knew that Admiral Byng's fleet had been sent to protect the British interests in the Mediterranean, and especially to act against the French fleet, and from him he hoped to receive assistance. On the 18th April, 1756, the French appeared off Minorca. Aware that Byng had been sent to intercept it, the Marshal lost not a moment in effecting a landing, and the siege was forthwith commenced. From that date until the 24th June the siege went on, the British working unceasingly and keeping up a continuous fire upon the French approaches, who, however, steadily overcame all their obstacles, and at length had the whole castle commanded by their batteries. On the 19th May the English fleet, under Admiral Byng, hove in sight, raising high hopes of relief in the breasts of the defenders; but, to their great disappointment, the fleet retired almost without firing a shot, and they were left to their fate. However, they still determined to hold out to the last; every effort was redoubled. General Blakeney never changed his clothes night or day, but was ever at hand to give instructions or advice; and so little repose could be obtained, that it is stated the gunners fell asleep at their posts in the midst of the heaviest cannonades, and that five hundred men were sent to the hospital utterly prostrated by sickness and fatigue. On the 27th June, when the defences had been nearly ruined by the fire of the French, Marshal Richelieu

gave orders for the simultaneous attack of the batteries, which were stormed impetuously by the French grenadiers. But the British knew the crisis had arrived; every man was therefore in his place; even the sick left the hospital to take part in the defence, and so desperate a one they made, that the French, in spite of all their efforts, could get no farther than the out-works; but Blakeney had suffered so heavy a loss, and the remainder of the garrison were so worn out by incessant duty, that, seeing the hopelessness of the struggle, and no signs of relief, he resolved to capitulate, which he accordingly did on the following day. As an acknowledgment of the noble defence the garrison had made, Marshal Richelieu granted to General Blakeney all the honours of war they could enjoy, consequently they marched out with firelocks on their shoulders, drums beating, colours flying, twenty cartouches to each man and also lighted match, and all their private effects in addition, and having been embarked in French vessels, were conveyed to Gibraltar. The news of the capture of Minorca was received in England with much indignation. Admiral Byng was tried by Court Martial, and shot for not fully engaging the French fleet; and General Fowke at Gibraltar was dismissed the service for not sending reinforcements to Blakeney's assistance; whilst the old veteran himself was made a K.B. and raised to the Peerage, and honours were freely bestowed upon the other officers of the late garrison. After a short stay at Gibraltar, the 34th embarked for England, "where its arrival was hailed with acclamations by the inhabitants of the towns through which it passed." During this eventful siege, the 34th, which numbered twenty-six officers and seven hundred and thirty-six men, had two officers and twelve men killed, seven men died of their wounds, one officer and seventy-seven men wounded, and two men died from excessive exertion, making a total loss of one hundred and one officers and men.

CHAPTER II.

We must now return to the 55th, whom we left in Ireland. Early in 1757 the regiment, then quartered at Galway, received orders to march for Cork, to embark for North America, and on the 7th May it sailed in Admiral Holbourne's fleet, with six other regiments, for Nova Scotia, which, after a tedious voyage, they reached in July, and landed at Halifax on the 9th of that month. Here the Earl of Loudon soon arrived with five battalions from New York, and in August the 55th formed part of Major-General Hopson's brigade in the expedition sent against Louisberg, one of the French strongholds, but circumstances necessitated the abandonment of the project for the present, and the troops were disembarked.

Next year three expeditions were set on foot, one against Louisberg, another against Fort Ticonderoga, and the third against Fort Du Quesne. The second of these, in which the 55th took part, was composed of six thousand three hundred regulars and nine thousand provincials, with a respectable train of artillery, and commanded by the Commander-in-Chief in person, General Abercromby. On the 5th July the troops crossed Lake George, and on the following day commenced their march in four columns towards Ticonderoga. In the woods they had a sharp skirmish with the French, and the 55th, which was leading the right centre column, had the misfortune to lose their Colonel, Lord Howe, who was shot through the heart in this their maiden fight. On the morning of the 8th they came in sight of the ramparts of Ticonderoga. This fort was situated on a rocky tongue of land, with three of its sides surrounded by water, and one-half of the fourth covered by a dangerous morass; the remainder was strongly defended by a breastwork of masonry, between nine and ten feet high, before which, for the distance of a cannon shot, was an abattis of whole oak trees, secured to the ground, with their branches sharpened and turned outwards. Without waiting for the artillery to come up, Abercromby hastily formed the

resolution of attacking at once, and the picquets were ordered to commence the assault, followed by the grenadiers, who were to be supported by the battalions and the reserve, the latter being composed of the 42nd and 55th Regiments. With undaunted courage the troops rushed to the front, though exposed to a most withering fire; and after almost superhuman efforts, forced their way through the abattis and reached the breastwork. But they could get no farther; they had not been provided with ladders, and as they attempted to scale the work by getting on each other's shoulders and similar devices, they were instantly overthrown by the defenders, who bravely resisted all attempts of the British to force a way in. The carnage continued for four hours, during the greater part of which they were under a withering fire from the ramparts in addition to the musketry behind the breastwork, truly a murderous "baptism of fire" for the young soldiers of the 55th; but as no impression could be made on the enemy, Abercromby gave up the attempt, and gave the order to retire. But the troops had become so exasperated by the unexpected check and the loss of so many of their comrades (the wounded of whom, it is stated, called on their comrades to continue the fight), that they could with the greatest difficulty be recalled, even after all hope of success had long failed. The loss of the troops was immense—thirty-seven officers and five hundred and seventeen men killed, and eighty-seven officers and one thousand two hundred and eighty men wounded, a grand total of one thousand nine hundred and twenty-one—and sufficiently attests the severity of the struggle. The Highlanders of the reserve lost in killed and wounded six hundred and twenty-two men; and of the officers, the two battalions of the 42nd had twenty-five, and the 55th ten, rendered *hors-de-combat*. The retreat was conducted in good order to their former camp, the French being evidently satisfied with their success, and making no attempt to pursue or annoy them, and the wounded were all carried off in safety. Nothing further was done by Abercromby this season, and the troops returned to their old quarters; but the campaign was not wholly unsuccessful, as the two expeditions against Louisberg and Du Quesne had been so fortunate as to accomplish their capture.

In 1759 three expeditions were again set on foot, in two of which the 55th figured prominently; the third was that of General Wolfe's against Quebec. General Amherst, now Com-

mander-in-Chief, undertook the task of reducing Ticonderoga and Crown Point; while to Brigadier-General Prideaux, the Colonel of the 55th, was assigned that of Fort Niagara, in whose column was the grenadier company of the regiment. The siege of this fort had barely been formed when Prideaux was killed in the trenches by the bursting of a mortar; but it was prosecuted with such vigour by Sir William Johnson, that on the 25th July, five days afterwards, it was surrendered. The remaining companies of the 55th accompanied Amherst to the scene of their former disappointment, who, taking warning by the sad mistake of Abercromby, would not approach the fort without his artillery; and after a sharp skirmish in the wood, which displayed to the French the caution of the General, and the formidable force marching against them, they, on the 25th July, blew up the fort and retired down Lake Champlain to Crown Point. Leaving Lieutenant-Colonel Eyre of the 55th to repair the fort, Amherst followed the enemy; but on the appearance of the British they again blew up their defences and retired to the Isle-aux-Noix, whither they could not just yet be followed, as they held the superiority of the lakes with four large armed vessels. Amherst therefore found it necessary to build similar vessels to enable him to cope with them; and this took so much time, that by the time they were ready the season was too far advanced for him to be able to do anything effectual. He therefore placed his troops in winter quarters, the 55th proceeding to New York, and awaited the return of the season.

The month of July, 1760, again saw the 55th in the Commander-in-Chief's army. Amherst had now only to reduce Montreal to be master of the country. Proceeding down the St. Lawrence, he detached Colonel Haviland with three thousand two hundred men, including the grenadier and light companies of the 55th, to effect the capture of the Isle-aux-Noix, and also stopped his own force on its way down the river to reduce Fort Levi on L'Isle Royale, which, after two days severe fighting, surrendered. After a tedious voyage, in which he lost a great number of men in passing the rapids and falls, he, on the 6th September, landed with ten thousand men on the Island of Montreal, six miles above the town; and so well had the plan of operations been carried out, that on the same day Colonel Murray, with three thousand eight hundred men, arrived from Quebec, and Colonel Haviland on

the day following, having successfully accomplished the reduction of Isle-aux-Noix. Seeing himself surrounded, and with no hopes of relief, the Marquis de Vaudreuil, the French Governor-General, sent to General Amherst, proposing a capitulation, which being agreed to and signed on the 8th September, the garrison, consisting of ten French battalions of the line, laid down their arms, and Montreal—and with it all Canada—surrendered to the British.

The war being now at an end, the troops were sent into quarters, and the 55th were marched to a newly-built fort at Oswego, on Lake Ontario, where the head-quarters and six companies were stationed, under Major Duncan, and the other four detached to garrison the other forts along the frontiers of the territory. Here the Indians soon began to be troublesome; their hatred to the English was fostered by the French settlers, who had been left in quiet possession of their farms and cattle, and after a few futile attempts, they, in the beginning of May, 1763, broke out in open rebellion, and attacked the whole of the frontier forts, surprising and capturing nine of them, and plundering and murdering the settlers along the whole frontiers of Pennsylvania and Virginia. The 55th had shortly before this been placed under orders to return home to Scotland, and to facilitate matters the detachments had been somewhat concentrated; but this rebellion prevented their return just yet. Fort Detroit, then garrisoned by one hundred and thirty officers and men, the Indians attempted to get possession of by various stratagems, and these failing, they, on the 9th May, made an open attack upon it, but were repulsed with great loss, and from this time the fort was closely invested by a vast number of Indians. As soon as their situation became known help was despatched from Fort Niagara, and on the 13th May, Lieutenant Cuyler of the 55th, with ninety men, left with abundance of provisions and ammunition. These failed to reach Detroit, but in July Captain Dalzell of the 55th, with two hundred and eighty men, including twenty Rangers, under Major Rogers, joined the beleaguered garrison, who now considered themselves strong enough to act upon the offensive. On the night of the 31st July, two hundred and fifty men, under Captain Dalzell, marched stealthily out of the fort to surprise the Indian camp, in which they would no doubt have succeeded had not some of the Canadians traitorously revealed the plan to the Indian Chiefs. Dalzell, with his party, were

allowed to penetrate almost to the camp, when the Indians, who had been placed in ambush, poured so murderous a fire upon them that nearly half the men were struck down; but Dalzell rallied the remainder, and showed so good a front that the enemy decamped; but he knowing it was now useless, with his small force, to attack them, commenced to retire. This he was not allowed to accomplish quietly. The Indians came on in force on all sides, and it was with great difficulty the party cut their way through to the fort. It was a running fight all the way; as often as a man dropped wounded the inhuman savages scalped him without mercy. Dalzell himself was killed, and on their arrival inside the fort, it was found that only one hundred and fifty had returned of the number who had so hopefully marched out a few hours before. After this defeat the garrison could do nothing but act on the defensive, being yet strong enough to repel their attacks on the fort; but the siege, which it was thought the Indians would tire of, continued all the winter and through the following spring and summer.

At length two powerful armies were marched into the Indian territories, one by Fort Pitt and the other to Detroit; and on the 26th August, 1764, Colonel Bradstreet arrived at the fort, and the garrison, which had endured a weary siege of fifteen months, was relieved, and the newly arrived troops substituted in their stead. The 55th now returned to their head-quarters at Oswego, and in the following year the regiment moved down to Albany to prepare to embark for home. Suddenly, however, a thunderbolt burst among them in the shape of an order to draft the privates to Florida to fill up the regiments there stationed, and in the middle of 1765 these embarked for Pensacola, and the officers and non-commissioned officers embarked for Ireland. This no doubt had a great share in changing the nationality of the regiment, for there would probably be a difficulty in filling its ranks from the old recruiting fields after this treatment of the men, which would not be experienced in another part of the kingdom, and so the officers were sent to Ireland to recruit; but it took many years to make it forget its Scotch origin, and the 55th continued a favourite regiment with recruits in Scotland long afterwards, even so late as the year 1805.

In August, 1756, soon after its arrival in England, the 34th was augmented to two battalions, and in the following

summer both of these were encamped on Barham Downs, under the Duke of Marlborough. The existence of this second battalion was not of a very long duration. For a short time it served on board the fleet as marines. In April, 1758, it was constituted a separate regiment, and numbered the 73rd Foot, but was disbanded in 1763, after the peace of Fontainebleau.

With the view of creating a diversion on the coast of France, an expedition was, in 1758, fitted out and sent, under the orders of the Duke of Marlborough, against Cherbourg and St. Maloes, and in June the 34th, forming with the 24th and 72nd Regiments the brigade under Major-General G. Elliott, landed on the coast of Brittany, and, advancing to St. Maloes, set fire to the shipping and destroyed the extensive magazines and maritime stores. The severity of the weather prevented their proceeding to Cherbourg just yet; but on the 6th August they were again disembarked, and on the following day took possession of the town, which they likewise destroyed. The town of St. Cas next occupied their attention. On the 4th of September they landed in the Bay of St. Lunaire, and after destroying the batteries, marched along the coast towards St. Cas, but on approaching the town they discovered that the French had been preparing to give them a warm reception. It was therefore decided to re-embark at once; but during the embarkation the enemy came down in force, and in spite of all their efforts only three-fourths of the British could get on board, the remainder being killed or taken prisoners. Towards the end of September the 34th landed at Portsmouth, and in the following summer were encamped at Sandheath with the 5th, 8th, and 33rd Regiments, under the Earl of Ancram, and in the summer of 1760 was, with five battalions of militia, encamped at Winchester under its Colonel, the Earl of Effingham. In 1761 it was again at Sandheath with the 72nd Foot, under Lieutenant-General Cornwallis.

In January, 1762, war was declared against Spain, and expeditions were at once despatched to Cuba and Manilla, as it had been determined to strike a blow at those fertile sources of her wealth, and to the former of these islands we find that the 34th proceeded. Havannah, the capital of the island, described as the "brightest possession of the Spaniards across the Atlantic," had, with respect to its defences, been well

looked after. Extensive works encircled the town, which was strengthened by a large fort, called the Moro, which was the key to the whole system. The expedition sent to effect its capture was under the command of the Earl of Albemarle, who had at his disposal a large and efficient body of troops, including the 34th, which, with the 35th, 43rd, and 75th Regiments, formed Brigadier-General Reed's brigade. On the 6th June he disembarked his forces, and on the following day commenced the siege of the Moro. Great difficulties were experienced in obtaining materials for the covering works in consequence of the rocky soil between the fort and the sea shore, and the absence of water and the labour of dragging the heavy guns to their positions caused incredible hardship. The garrison, numbering over thirteen thousand regulars, besides a large body of militia, valiantly defended themselves and made many desperate sorties. In one of these, which occurred on the 21st July, the 34th Regiment, together with the 1st Royals and a battalion of the Royal Americans (now 60th Foot) particularly distinguished themselves. On the 30th the Moro was taken by storm, and then arrangements were made for attacking the town. On the 11th August the batteries were opened; but the defenders made so vigorous a defence, that it was not until they had endured the horrors of a heavy bombardment and the Governor, Don Louis de Velasco, and his second in command, the Marquis Gonzales, had fallen sword in hand, that the town surrendered. An enormous quantity of prize fell into the hands of the captors, which was distributed to the different ranks in the following proportions: the Commander-in-Chief's share was £122,697, that of the Major-Generals £6,816, and the Brigadier-Generals £1,947; the Field Officers received £564:14s. 1d., Captains £124:4s. 7½d., Subalterns £116:3s. 0½d., Serjeants £8:18s. 8d., Corporals £6:16s. 6d.; while the Privates had to be content with £4:1s. 8½d. The 34th remained at Havannah after the conquest, but on the termination of the war in the following year, Havannah was restored to Spain in exchange for the country of Florida, in North America, and the 34th was one of the regiments sent to take possession of the new territory, where it remained several years, returning home in 1768, and in the following year was again stationed in Ireland.

Both the 34th and 55th Regiments appear to have had

a long period of service in the sister island, as it was not until the year 1775 that the latter reappears in America, whither it was followed the next year by the 34th.

CHAPTER III.

In 1775 the colonists of North America broke into open rebellion against the authority of the British Crown. In May and June Generals Sir William Howe and Clinton arrived at Boston, the British head-quarters, with ten thousand men, of which force the 55th formed a part, to reduce them to submission. Necessitated to evacuate Boston, Sir William Howe embarked his army in March, 1776, and proceeded to Halifax to await the arrival of large reinforcements expected to arrive from England; but growing tired of the delay caused by their non-appearance, he, on the 10th June, embarked his army and sailed for New York. General Washington, the American commander, had moved thither to dispute his disembarkation; but Howe, finding Staten Island not so well protected, landed there on the 3rd July without opposition. The next day the American Congress took the bold step of publishing their famous "Declaration of Independence," in which they formally withdrew their allegiance from the King of Great Britain, and thus effectually put an end to the hopes of the British that the matter in dispute might be satisfactorily settled by negotiation without appealing to the sword.

The 55th, now commanded by Captain John Luke, formed, with the 17th, 40th, and 46th Regiments, the 4th brigade of the army commanded by their own Colonel, Major-General James Grant. About a fortnight after landing, Howe was joined by the expected reinforcements, and the army now numbered thirty thousand men, which was backed up by a powerful fleet under the General's brother, Admiral Lord Howe. On the 22nd August the army crossed over to Long Island, and on the morning of the 27th Howe marched to attack the Americans, who were strongly intrenched at Brooklyn. In front of their position was a range of woody heights running across the island, through which three passes led to the plains beyond. General Grant started the evening

before with his own and the 6th brigade, and taking possession of the pass on the enemy's right, engaged them at day-break. General Heister, with the Hessians, forced the centre pass ; and while the Americans were hotly engaged with these two columns, General Clinton, with three brigades, marching for the pass on their left, passed through the hills almost unobserved, and had gained the rear of the centre of their position before they detected his movements. These now gave way, as did also their right, on seeing the centre broken ; and Grant following and pressing them, great numbers perished miserably in a deep morass which lay in their rear. With great difficulty the remainder escaped to their lines at Brooklyn, where the British soldiers eagerly desired to follow them ; but Howe checked them in the full tide of victory, declaring the lines were too formidable for an assault, and only to be taken by regular approaches. The Americans lost in killed, wounded, and drowned in the morass, from one thousand two hundred to one thousand five hundred men, besides one thousand and ninety-seven prisoners, among whom were three generals and ten field officers. The British loss was sixty-one killed and two hundred and fifty-seven wounded, of which the battalion companies* of the 55th had one man killed and three wounded. On the following morning the British broke ground opposite the American lines ; but Washington, who had arrived during the action, and had seen that the position was untenable, had resolved on a retreat across the river to New York, and this was carried out during the night of the 28th with such secrecy, that on a heavy fog, which materially aided their efforts, clearing away on the next morning, the last of their rear-guard was seen by the British out of their reach.

Howe determined to follow, and on the 15th September took possession of New York ; but finding Washington very strongly posted, he determined to attack him in the rear, and leaving a sufficient force under Lord Percy to protect the town, embarked the rest of the army on the 12th October, and landed at the mouth of the Hudson river. On the 28th

* The grenadier and light companies of the 55th were serving in the 2nd grenadier and light infantry battalions, the whole of the flank companies of the army having been formed (as was usual at that time) into separate battalions.

the battle of White Plains was fought, followed by the capture of Forts Washington and Lee, which obstructed the navigation of the North river, in all of which operations the 55th bore a honourable part. General Cornwallis now advanced into the Jerseys without opposition, Washington's army, which was in a most miserable plight, falling back before him, and being only saved from annihilation by Cornwallis halting at the town of Brunswick, at the positive orders of General Howe, and thus giving them time to pass the river Delaware and get into a place of safety. On the 17th December, Howe came up, and placing his troops in winter quarters along the river, awaited the course of events. But Washington, having received reinforcements, was not disposed to be quiet, and crossing the river on the ice, he made a dashing attack, early on the morning after Christmas Day, on Howe's advanced post at Trenton, which was occupied by the Hessians, under Colonel Rhalle, and after a furious contest, which took place in a violent snow storm, completely defeated them, and took nine hundred prisoners, the remainder, numbering about five hundred men, escaping with difficulty to Bordentown. The same evening the Americans recrossed the Delaware, but finding that the British had not reoccupied Trenton, again crossed the river and took possession of the place. But on the 2nd January, 1777, Howe, who was not a little alarmed at Washington's reappearance on the Jersey side, advanced against him, and after some slight skirmishing, which showed that Washington was doing all he could to avoid an engagement, Cornwallis got his men into a favourable position, and awaited the morning to attack. Washington was now in a dilemma. He could not cross the river behind him, in consequence of a thaw rendering the ice unsafe, and he feared if he remained where he was that he would be surrounded; he, therefore, decided to adopt the bold course of striking across the country, and getting into the rear of the British army. Accordingly, at about midnight, he silently moved off, leaving his fires still burning to deceive Cornwallis, and proceeded towards Princetown by a road parallel to that over which the British had marched the previous day, and it was not until the morning that Cornwallis discovered his enemy had decamped.

Early on the morning of the 3rd, Lieutenant-Colonel Mawhood, with the 17th and 55th Regiments, and a few

guns, commenced his march from Princetown to Maidenhead, about half-way to Trenton; but he had not proceeded far, when he saw, advancing towards him, what afterwards proved to be the whole American army. Mawhood at first took their advanced guard for Hessians; but quickly perceiving his error, sent back his baggage to Princetown, with orders to the 40th Regiment, then laying there, to come at once to his assistance, and posting his little force of two weak regiments on some rising ground, awaited the attack of the Americans. As they approached he threw so heavy a fire into their ranks that the van was thrown into confusion, and before they could recover themselves he pushed forwards the 17th Regiment, which charged them with the bayonet, and drove them back pell-mell into a ravine which lay in their rear. By this time Washington had arrived at the front, and with a fearless example led his main body to renew the attack; but a terrible slaughter ensued before he could cross the ravine, and it was believed that, had the 40th arrived in time from Princetown, Mawhood could have kept the Americans in play blundering at that ravine, until Cornwallis had taken them in rear, when their destruction must have been inevitable; but they could not come up, and Washington, after an obstinate struggle, managed to separate the 17th from the 55th, and so extricated himself from his difficulty. The 17th succeeded in cutting their way through to Maidenhead; but the 55th, encumbered with wounded, were not so fortunate, and falling back with the 40th to Princetown, from thence retreated to Brunswick, which, with its large magazine and military chest, containing £70,000, was the great object of Cornwallis's solicitude. Washington had been rapidly followed by Cornwallis, as soon as he had discovered his whereabouts from the reports of the artillery, and it was with great difficulty that he was able to cross Millstone river, and by breaking down the bridge behind him, to stop the pursuit. For this spirited affair the thanks of the King were afterwards conveyed to the 17th and 55th Regiments. The loss of the three regiments in killed, wounded, and missing, amounted to ten officers and two hundred and sixty-six men, of which there belonged to the 55th four officers and seventy-seven men.

The want of supplies prevented the British taking the field until June; but Washington continued to act on the offensive, and spared no efforts to harass and annoy his

enemy. The supplies having arrived from England, Sir William Howe crossed over from New York to open the campaign, for which purpose the brigades of the army were reconstructed, and the 55th was formed in the 2nd brigade, with the 5th, 10th, 27th, and 40th Regiments, under Major-General Grant. Howe now assumed the offensive; but the Americans were too strongly posted to be prudently attacked, and all the *ruses* he could think of and try, could not draw Washington into less advantageous ground. Sir William, therefore, determined to change the seat of war, and on the 5th July embarked his force, except a detachment under Sir Henry Clinton, to defend New York, and after some delays sailed on the 23rd from Sandy Hook.

We must now return to the 34th. Early in the spring of 1776 the regiment embarked for Canada, where it arrived with four others on the 6th May, at the critical time when Quebec was closely beleaguered by an American force, into whose hands it must have fallen but for the arrival of this reinforcement; and Sir Guy Carleton, on receiving this acquisition to his small garrison, assumed the offensive, and routed their forces, compelling them to raise the siege. In the spring of 1777 it was determined to carry on the war from the Canadian side also, and to Lieutenant-General Burgoyne was assigned the task of penetrating to New York to co-operate with Sir William Howe. He first of all detached Colonel St. Leger to create a diversion on the shores of Lake Ontario, and to this force the battalion companies of the 34th furnished a hundred men; but the enterprise proved a failure, as did also the siege of Fort Stanwix. Burgoyne's main army amounted to about eight thousand men, including the grenadier and light companies of the 34th, and after having effected the re-capture of Fort Ticonderoga, which had been surprised by a party of Americans, set forth on its march towards Albany, through a country intersected by woods and swamps; but soon gone far before the health of the men began to be the rear of the army, the poisonous malaria from the dank night, he silently moved, soon filled the field hospitals. The deceive Cornwallis, and prolonged halts had to be made, whilst road parallel to that over which for the army to proceed; but previous day, and it was not until difficulties, Burgoyne had discovered his enemy had decamped, to reach the plains. Early on the morning of the 19th, he in contact, at Stillwater, Mawhood, with the 17th and

with an American army under General Gates. The battle lasted the whole day, and was fiercely contested on both sides ; but, ultimately, the enemy abandoned the field, having suffered very severely in killed and wounded. The British loss amounted to six hundred men, and encumbered as he was with artillery and stores, Burgoyne found he had derived no material advantage from his victory.

As another long halt was inevitable, he intrenched his camp and sent off to Sir William Howe for assistance. His force of Indians at this juncture deserted him, and his provisions ran so short that many of his men and horses succumbed to the severe privations they had to undergo. Gates now endeavoured to get into the rear of the British and cut off their retreat, and on his pushing forwards to his right flank, Burgoyne attacked him with one thousand five hundred men ; but the victory was dearly purchased by the loss of more than two hundred officers and men. The Americans would not now be enticed to fight again, and it became evident to Burgoyne that they were intent upon surrounding him. A retreat to Saratoga became a necessity, which he accomplished at the cost of all his heavy guns and sick men. From thence he endeavoured to reach Fort George, but the enemy blocked the road ; he then turned towards Fort Edward, but with the same result, and it then became evident that the end was not far off. His army had dwindled down to three thousand five hundred feeble men, almost worn out by incessant toil and misfortune, and the constant attacks of sixteen thousand men ; and on the 13th October, when, after close calculation, he found he had only seven or eight days provisions in camp, and had no prospect of getting more, he called a Council of War, which decided, under the dismal circumstances in which they were placed, to capitulate. General Gates was, therefore, communicated with, and it was agreed that the British should march out of their intrenchments with the honours of war, and be marched to Massachusetts Bay, for embarkation for England, to serve no more in North America during the war. On the following day the troops marched out to a point on the verge of the river, where they piled their arms, and leaving them with the guns, commenced their sad march southwards. The American Congress shamefully repudiated this Convention, and the troops, on arrival at Massachusetts, were detained prisoners of war.

When Sir William Howe sailed with his army from Sandy Hook on the 23rd July, 1777, Washington dreading a junction between his forces and those of General Burgoyne, whom he knew to be advancing towards Albany, would scarcely believe the British would sail southwards; but when they appeared off the Delaware his suspense was relieved, and he moved his army to cover the city of Philadelphia. On the 24th August, Howe landed at the head of the Elk river, only a few days march from the city; but from the want of horses, of which a great number had died on the voyage, he could not move forward until the 3rd September, and this gave Washington plenty of time to prepare for his reception. On the 11th, however, Howe came up to the American army, fifteen thousand in numbers, strongly posted and intrenched behind the river Brandywine. Dividing his force into two columns, he left General Knyphausen to amuse the enemy with demonstrations of passing the river in their immediate front, while himself, with Lord Cornwallis, took a circuit of several miles in order to turn the right flank of their position. Knyphausen, in whose division the battalion companies of the 55th were brigaded, soon found himself opposed by Generals Wayne and Maxwell, who were posted in advance; but he drove them across the river after some severe fighting, and then contented himself with making such arrangements for crossing as would keep them in suspense until he could ascertain that the left column had attacked. Moving some miles to the left, Cornwallis (who had with him the grenadier and light infantry battalions) crossed the river without opposition, and turning short down the bank came upon the enemy's right, at about four o'clock, and in a fierce contest drove the force under General Sullivan from the field. As soon as he heard the firing on his left, Knyphausen at once pushed forward, and carried the batteries and intrenchments in the most gallant manner; and following them up, while Cornwallis was pressing them back on their right, a general rout ensued, and the Americans fled on all points. Washington, with the remnant of his army, retired to Philadelphia, towards which city Howe followed him.

Hearing that the British were about to ford the river Schuylkill, Washington sent a select brigade of his light troops, one thousand five hundred strong, under General Wayne, to harass and annoy them while crossing; but Howe,

receiving intelligence of this, sent General Grey with the 42nd and 44th Regiments and the 2nd battalion of light infantry (in which was the light company of the 55th) to surprise him. Marching on the night of the 20th September, Grey conducted his enterprise so well, that at about one o'clock in the morning he came upon the enemy so secretly* that he was able to overpower their sentries and picquets without alarming the main body, which lay wrapt in deep repose in fancied security. Rushing forwards, the British fiercely attacked the Americans, who were soon aroused ; but before they could seize their arms the assailants had bayoneted more than three hundred of them and taken one hundred prisoners, the remainder, panic-stricken, escaped in the darkness of the night, leaving their baggage behind them. As the light battalion had in this sanguinary affair done them the greatest execution, the Americans, who were greatly exasperated, declared that in any future action they would give the "Light Bobs" no quarter. The "Light Bobs" replied "They were ready for them"; and to prevent any others suffering on their account, they chivalrously dyed the feathers of their caps a red colour, and retaining the red feather as a distinguishing badge, bore it valiantly in the van of the army, and in the thickest of every fight, until the termination of the war. In one of these companies the distinction has been preserved to the present day, for when the light companies returned to their regiments, and the light infantry battalion ceased to exist as such, the red feather seems to have disappeared in all except the light company of the 46th Regiment. This retained the distinction either in the form of a red plume or tuft until flank companies were abolished, when it was still preserved by the red tuft, which was sanctioned to the entire regiment. This distinction might have been accorded to the whole six regiments whose light companies composed the battalion alluded to, had they been as tenacious of their honours as the 46th had been ; and to the absence of this must, we suppose, be attributed the fact that the 55th have sunk in abeyance a decoration which they appear to have worn with the same distinction as the other companies composing the light infantry battalion.

* To guard against accidents, Grey had ordered the men to take the flints out of their muskets, intending to trust to the bayonet alone, and from this circumstance he acquired the *sobriquet* of "No-flint Grey."

The following day Howe crossed the Schuylkill, and on the 25th advanced to Germantown, from whence he detached Lord Cornwallis with the grenadiers and two battalions of Hessians to take possession of Philadelphia. Washington now endeavoured to effect a surprise in turn. Advancing in four columns, in a thick fog, on the evening of the 3rd October, he got so close to the British, that at daybreak on the 4th he was able to fall on the picquets before his advance was discovered. Driving them in, and also the advanced guard, he came upon the 40th Regiment, under Colonel Musgrave, who threw himself into a large stone house. Instead of leaving a brigade to engage him, and pushing on with his main body, Washington committed the mistake of bringing his whole force against it, and thus gave the British time to move into action, and General Grey coming up with three battalions, supported by General Agnew with the 4th brigade, soon repulsed him with great slaughter. On the left another of his columns was soon forced to retire out of action; and on the right the 5th and 55th Regiments continued hotly engaged with a superior force until General Grant reinforced them with two other battalions, when they too were repulsed; and Lord Cornwallis, arriving from Philadelphia with three more battalions, started in pursuit and followed them for eight miles, but the fog, which had favoured the attack, also enabled them to accomplish a good retreat, and to carry off their artillery. Soon after this the troops were placed in winter quarters, in and around the city of Philadelphia; and in the following May Sir William Howe resigned the command of the army and was relieved by Sir Henry Clinton.

As the French by this time had taken sides with the Americans and declared war, the British Government sent orders to evacuate Philadelphia, and the first act of Sir Henry Clinton was to retire to New York. This, however, was a difficult enterprise, and Washington did all in his power to harass and annoy him; but Clinton, on the 27th June, halted on his march, and at Freehold faced about on his enemy. A severe battle took place, but it was an indecisive one, for in the middle of the day both armies became so overpowered with fatigue and the excessive heat, that numbers fell dead in the ranks without a wound, and both sides voluntarily desisted from further hostilities. Continuing his march, Clinton arrived at Sandy Hook on the 30th, where he found

Lord Howe with the fleet, and embarking on the 5th July, arrived at New York, and were landed the same day.

During the next few months the 55th took part in the expeditions to the Acushnet River, which destroyed the towns of Bedford and Fairhaven, to Martha's Vineyard, and to Egg Harbour, which, among many others, were undertaken by the British.

In November, 1778, the French fleet, which had for four months been cruising about the coast, sailed for the West Indies for the purpose of attacking the British possessions; but it so happened that on the same day Major-General Grant had been despatched with five thousand men to defend them, and he having arrived first, turned the tables on the French by attacking the Island of St. Lucia. On the 12th December Grant landed the reserve under Brigadier-General Meadows, and Brigadier-General Prescott's brigade, composed of the 15th, 28th, 46th, and 55th Regiments, in the bay formed by the Grand Cul de Sac, which force immediately carried the heights on the north side, and the next morning, on the remainder disembarking, they pushed forward so vigorously that all the important places on the island, including the capital town, fell into their hands, the Governor (the Chevalier de Micoud) fleeing with the remnant of his troops into the interior. Just as this had been accomplished intelligence was received that the French fleet was approaching the island. The night was to them an anxious one, for D'Estaing the French Admiral's force of both men and ships was far superior in numbers to those of the British, and the time was spent by the navy in putting their ships into the best situations, and by the army in strengthening their positions. At daybreak on the 15th, D'Estaing stood in with his whole fleet, and although he could see the British on the island was unaware of the extent of their conquests, consequently on receiving a heavy fire from the batteries he retired for a time to consider matters. He however soon returned to attack the British squadron, but he got so severely handled between the batteries and the shipping that he had again to retire. He renewed the contest in the afternoon, but with the like result, and then sheering off changed his tactics by sailing on the following day six miles to the northward, and landed his troops in Grosislet Bay to try what he could do on shore, seeing that his naval attack had so signally failed. General Meadows' reserve, numbering

one thousand three hundred men, and composed of the 5th Regiment and the grenadier and light companies of all the regiments composing the expedition, occupied the important post of La Vizie, which entirely commanded the north side of the Carenage, and these D'Estaing selected to commence with. Meadows was in a critical position, for though he was posted on strong ground, yet he was exposed to the attacks of the fleet as well as those of the troops, and to prevent assistance being sent him another body had been sent to occupy the attention of the brigades of Generals Calder and Prescott. D'Estaing of course expected to beat each portion of Grant's force separately, but on his first essay he was so disappointed that he forbore to repeat the experiment. Advancing in three columns on the 18th, the French rushed to assault the British intrenchments, but the little band stood firm and undismayed by the impetuosity of their assailants, and even allowed them to reach the foot of the works without firing a shot, when, after giving one deadly volley, they received them at the point of the bayonet. The French recoiled, but returned to the attack, which again failed ; and on their bravely repeating the attempt a third time, they were repulsed with irretrievable disorder, leaving on the field four hundred dead and one thousand one hundred wounded, their casualties being thus greater in number than the whole force opposed to them, which lost in killed and wounded only seventy-one officers and men.

The reserve, proud of this achievement, plucked the white feathers out of the hats of their fallen foes, and with them decorated their own, and wearing them long afterwards to commemorate the decisive defeat the French had sustained at their hands. Of the whole of the corps composing the reserve, the 5th Regiment seems to have been the only one which in after times clung to the distinction of the "white feather," the others discontinuing the custom ; but the 5th retained, and to this day wear a distinctive plume in their head-dress, in memory of this exploit.* This is a second instance of the

* In 1829, the whole of the infantry were directed to wear a white feather in their head-dresses ; but in order to preserve the distinction, the 5th Regiment was allowed to wear a feather one half red and the other half white, the red being uppermost, which is still worn by the officers of the regiment.

tenacity with which some regiments cling to the least mark which will help to distinguish them above their fellows, and of the strong rivalry in deeds of daring and valour which these distinctions created, a feeling which has received a very severe shaking in our own times from the threatened abolition of regimental devices and distinctions. In this instance, as in a former one, the 55th have retained nothing to commemorate the part they played in the gallant action above narrated.

D'Estaing, though still superior in numbers to the British, made no further attempts for the recovery of the island. For some days he remained in seeming irresolution, but on the 28th re-embarked his troops, and on the following day sailed away, leaving the island to its fate; and the Governor, seeing himself abandoned, surrendered to the British before the French fleet was out of sight.

The 55th remained at St. Lucia several months, and in June, 1779, was embarked in Admiral Byron's fleet for the relief of Grenada; but an action ensued between the British and French fleets, and the transports being allowed to shift for themselves, that containing the 55th bore away for the island of St. Christopher, where the regiment was landed, and from whence it sent a detachment to the neighbouring island, St. Kitts. In the following April it was moved to Antigua, but in February, 1784, it returned to St. Kitts, where it appears to have remained until ordered to return home.

Considerable difficulty had been experienced in keeping the ranks of the different regiments filled with recruits, in consequence of the great drain of men upon the country, and in 1782 a scheme was adopted by which every English regiment, not bearing the designation "royal," was attached to a county, and granted the county title in order to cultivate a connexion for the furtherance of recruiting. The following is a copy of the circular-letter which was sent by General Conway, the Commander-in-Chief, to each of the foregoing regiments, and by authority of which the 34th assumed the title of the "Cumberland" and the 55th that of the "Westmorland" regiments:—

London, 31 August, 1782.

Sir,—His Majesty having been pleased to order that the regiment of foot which you command shall take the county name of the Fifty-Fifth or Westmorland Regiment, and be looked upon as attached to that county, I am to acquaint you it is His Majesty's further pleasure that you shall in all things conform to that idea, and endeavour by all

means in your power to cultivate and improve that connexion so as to create a mutual attachment between the county and the regiment, which may at all times be useful towards recruiting the regiment ; but as the completing of the several regiments, now generally so deficient, is, in the present crisis, of the most important national concern, you will, on this occasion, use the utmost possible exertion for that purpose, by prescribing the greatest diligence to your officers and recruiting parties, and by every suitable attention to the gentlemen and considerable inhabitants ; and as nothing can so much tend to conciliate their affections as an orderly and polite behaviour towards them, and an observance of the strictest discipline in all your quarters, you will give the most positive orders on that head ; and you will immediately make such a disposition of your recruiting parties as may best answer that end.

I have the honour to be, &c.,

H. S. CONWAY.

To Major-General James Grant,
Colonel of the Fifty-Fifth or
Westmorland Regiment of Foot.

Why the 55th was selected to be attached to Westmorland we cannot tell. It had not yet forgotten its Scotch origin, and still drew a good many recruits from the North of Scotland, where it was a favourite for many years after this ; but the fact of its being so attached, proves, that by the authorities at least, it was now considered an English regiment. Neither can we see any reason why the 34th in particular was selected for Cumberland, as nothing in its history points to any local influences for the selection.* However, this crude attempt at localization most signally failed ; no real connexion was ever formed between counties and regiments, and it has been reserved for our own times for a more than nominal connexion to be attempted with any likelihood of success.

Early in 1785 the 55th returned to England, whither in the following year it was followed by the 34th from Canada. In November, 1788, the 55th moved into Scotland, and in September, 1790, it crossed over to Ireland, where, in the beginning of 1793, we find it quartered at Londonderry and Colraine.

* Since penning the above, the writer has discovered that Lord Frederick Cavendish, the third son of the Duke of Devonshire, who possessed considerable estates in Cumberland, was at this time the Colonel of the 34th, and he thinks that it may have been in deference to his wishes that it was named the Cumberland Regiment.

CHAPTER IV.

In the middle of the year 1792 all Europe was astounded at the outbreak of the French Revolution, and at the terrible scenes enacted in the sacred name of Liberty by those who held the reins of power in France. Fearful lest the detestable doctrines which the French revolutionists were disseminating throughout the Continent should take root in their own countries, the principal European Powers took up arms against the disturbers of the peace; and the Stadtholder, whose territories were menaced by the Republicans, having invoked the aid of England, who had in the last treaty guaranteed him his position, a British force, under the Duke of York, was sent to aid the purposes of the general confederacy, and were landed at Helvoetsluys on the 5th March.

One of the first projects of the allies was to invest the town of Valenciennes, which was taken in July after a siege of nearly two months duration. In August the Duke of York undertook the siege of Dunkirk, a maritime town upon which the allies had long cast longing eyes, and to ensure success eleven battalions and a large siege train were sent from England to reinforce the army; but the French having with indomitable energy beaten off the covering armies and reinforced the garrison, the Duke on the 9th September was obliged to raise the siege and retire to Furness, leaving his heavy siege guns in the trenches behind him. In the previous month an expedition against the French West Indian Islands had been organized, under Sir C. Grey; but the Government, hearing that the French, flushed with their successes before Dunkirk, were menacing Ostend and Nieuport, despatched his force at once to that place, where his timely appearance saved Ostend from attack, and by his sending reinforcements to the beleagured garrison of Nieuport caused Vandamme to raise the siege on the 30th October and depart. Sir Charles then resumed the voyage to his original destination, and arrived in the West Indies in December. Not long after these

events the different armies went into winter quarters, and the Duke of York returned to England to concert measures for the next campaign. This opened in April, 1794.

We left the 55th in the North of Ireland in the beginning of 1793; but not until May, 1794, do we again come across its whereabouts, when we find it in the Hanoverian division of the Austrian army in West Flanders. How and when it joined the army on the Continent has not yet been ascertained. The presumption is, that it was placed under orders for the West Indies, with Sir C. Grey's expedition, and accompanied it to Ostend; but that Sir Charles left the regiment in Flanders, on his resuming his voyage, taking with him, as we shall afterwards see, only the flank companies to the West Indies. It has been stated that the regiment was with the Duke of York at the siege of Valenciennes; but the writer has discovered no information that warrants him in adopting that view at present, although he considers it very probable further researches would prove that at least some portion of it was present with the army at the time alluded to. Be that as it may, the 55th in May, 1794, formed, with the 12th and 38th Regiments, Major-General White's brigade in General Hammerstein's division of Count Clerfaut's army, to which brigade the 8th Light Dragoons were attached. The latter corps and the 12th Foot landed at Ostend from England early in the month and joined White's brigade, which appears to have been quartered in the town awaiting reinforcements, and on the arrival of the two corps to have marched at once to join the main army, as we find that White's brigade joined Clerfaut a few days after at Ingelmunster (quite unexpectedly it seems to the Austrian General, who had just been beaten from Courtray), and did him good service by covering his retreat to Thielt.

The position of the allied armies at this time occupied the extent of sixty English miles, stretching from Thielt on the right to St. Amand on the left. Hammerstein, and with him White and his brigade, was posted at Thourout. On the morning of the 16th May, six columns of the allies advanced simultaneously on Tourcoin, Clerfaut moving with his whole force across the Lys, at Werwick, and advancing on Lincelles. At the Lys he encountered so much resistance that he did not arrive at Werwick until the morning of the 18th; but having succeeded in driving back the enemy, he passed on to

Lincelles, where he encamped, having neither seen nor heard of the other five columns. The fact was, that not having been up in time to take his assigned part in the plan of operations, the allies had been the previous day beaten by the French in a tremendous battle near Tourcoin; but he not knowing this, continued his march the next day towards Roncq. His advance was soon disputed by the French, and a sharp conflict ensued between them and a part of White's brigade, consisting of the 8th Light Dragoons and the 12th and 55th Regiments, in which they lost nine guns and a number of prisoners; but finding that the allies had failed in their attacks, and that the enemy were in possession of Tourcoin, he turned about and took his troops back to their old quarters. On the morning of the 23rd the French attacked the Duke of York near Tournay, and it was not until after fifteen hours severe fighting that they were repulsed, the British being too fatigued to follow in pursuit; but the battle would have been a more decisive one had Clerfait or even the British brigades of White and Hammerstein been near enough to have taken part in it.

The French now threatened Ypres, and by the 4th June had succeeded in investing it with thirty thousand men, covering their operations by another army of twenty-five thousand men, and to relieve the garrison Clerfait advanced with his whole force. On the 7th he attacked the enemy at Hoogledge, but was repulsed; however, on the 13th he made a general attack on their whole position, and got possession of Rouslaer; but after six hours hard fighting at Hoogledge with General Macdonald, a fresh brigade of Republicans under General Winter arrived on the field, and Clerfait was again forced to retire to his camp at Thielt. At the same time the enemy were engaged by Hammerstein at Kootmarke, and by White at Ghits; but the attacks were unsuccessful, and both brigades returned to Thourout, from whence, during the night, the 8th Light Dragoons, and the 38th and 55th Regiments, were detached under Lieutenant-Colonel Pitcairn to Ostend, which town they entered on the 14th, and joined the force under General Stewart. On the 17th, Ypres surrendered to Moreau, and Clerfait was compelled to evacuate his camp at Thielt and take refuge at Ghent.

On the 26th June the Earl of Moira arrived at Ostend with a reinforcement of eight thousand men. He found

General Stewart on the point of leaving the town, as he had received intelligence that Pichegru had received orders to attack it; and falling into Stewart's views, that it were better to reinforce the Duke of York than risk the loss of troops which would so considerably augment his forces, he embarked all his stores, and on the evening of the 28th marched to join the Duke's army. On the 3rd July, Lord Moira reached Alost, where he had a combat with the French; but pressing on, he joined His Royal Highness on the 9th, at his camp at Malines. On the 13th the British and Austrian armies separated; the Dutch, under the Prince of Orange, remaining with the Duke of York, who had now fifty thousand men under his command. Three days after this General Stewart was engaged with the enemy at Waelham, and effectually opposed their advance guard; and at Rosendael, Lord Moira had a contest with their rear. As the Austrians kept falling back, the Duke found himself compelled to do likewise, as the positions he had taken up were, in the face of the strong forces of the Republicans, no longer tenable. He therefore, on the 22nd July, moved to a position between Bergen-op-Zoom and Breda, where he encamped his troops.

Early in August the Buffs joined the 1st brigade, which now consisted of the 3rd, 40th, 55th, 59th, and 89th Regiments, under General Stewart.

Both armies had been for a long time inactive; but in September the French began to move forward, and on the 15th the Duke of York broke up his camp and retired behind the Meuse. But the Imperialists soon after retired across the Rhine, and as Moreau had crossed the Meuse at Venloo, His Royal Highness again found his positions untenable, and he thereupon retreated across the Waal, and placed his army in an intrenched camp before Nimeguen, determined to stop, if possible, the further advance of the enemy. For a month he was unmolested; but on the 19th October the French, under General Souham, attacked the whole of the advanced posts, and succeeded in driving in the allies from Druyten and Nystervick. At the latter place some very sharp fighting occurred, and the 55th and the Loyal Emigrants lost three hundred men; and on the 27th they encountered the British outposts before Nimeguen, during a reconnaissance under Pichegru.

As Nimeguen stood on the left bank of the Waal, it could

not be completely invested without crossing the river, which would have been a hazardous undertaking in the face of the allied armies. Pichegru, therefore, closed in his troops around the south side of the town, and by the 2nd November had established four batteries, the guns of which were brought to bear upon the flying bridge across the river, and by which the Duke of York kept his communications open. The Austrians had come to His Royal Highness's assistance, and had opened out their forces to defend the Waal; but it now became a necessity to silence these batteries, and it was determined to make a sortie on the night of the 4th to effect their destruction. Accordingly, two columns, consisting principally of Hanoverian and Dutch troops, sallied out of two separate gates to attack the French camp, while the main column, consisting of the 27th, 28th, 55th, 63rd, and 78th Regiments, together with some cavalry, dashed at the enemy's intrenchments, the 55th having the good fortune to lead the attack. But there were traitors within Nimeguen, and the French were quite prepared to receive their assailants. General De Burgh led the main column, which advanced under a heavy fire from the trenches, without firing a shot, and leaping down amongst the enemy, who were formed up "chin deep," attacked them with the bayonet. A terrific carnage ensued on both sides; but the French were completely driven out with the loss of five hundred men. The fatigue parties, however, did not, through some mistake, do their work well; and when the signal of recall was given, so little permanent injury had been done to their works, that by the 6th the French had repaired them and reopened their fire on the town and bridge, of which they soon sank one or two of the boats. The next day General Souham got possession of one of the advanced works, and thereupon the Duke resolved to evacuate the town, which he at once carried into execution, and burned the bridge behind him.

The troops were now cantoned along the right bank of the Waal, and began to suffer severely from the inclemency of the weather and the want of supplies. So intense did the frost become, that the French were soon able to cross the river on the ice and commence operations. Slowly but surely were the Republican armies pushing back the allies; no matter how gallantly or how resolutely the British disputed their advance, their immense numbers told in their favour, and

though it did not secure them victory in every combat, yet it gained them permanent advantages. On the 13th December they were forced to recross the Waal; but on the 29th they again crossed it, to be again forced back across the river. But on the 2nd January, 1795, they renewed their endeavours, and a series of sharp conflicts ensued in which the British got the worst of it; and eight days later the French passed the Waal in great force, and made a general attack upon all the posts along the river. In this the 55th was very hotly engaged, and lost about fifty men, but had to fall back upon Wageningen. On the 14th the British retired at all points. A few days afterwards the Stadtholder resigned the government into the hands of the States-General, who forthwith sent orders to the Dutch troops no longer to resist the French; and General Bonneau having been sent by Pichegru to take possession of the whole Dutch seaboard, the British were apparently shut out from all means of retreat, and placed in great jeopardy.

The British army had been for some time in a very pitiable condition; badly fed and badly clothed, and encumbered with sick and wounded, for whom there were neither surgeons nor medicines, it is a wonder they had been able to make a stand at all; and when the Duke, who was now handing over the command, quitted the army and went home, matters became even worse. Bremen had been fixed upon as the port of embarkation; but between it and them lay a horrid plain or desert, called the Weluwe, a bare district, with scarcely a habitation, and over which even the French would not follow them. The weather became so inclement that numbers perished in the snow from want and weakness, "the army laboured under the most severe privations, and the sufferings of the sick and wounded were beyond description." As soon as they had crossed this inhospitable region their enemies reappeared, and on the 24th February attacked the advanced posts under Colonel Strutt; but they gained no material advantage, and after a few skirmishes the French got tired of following them through swamps, up to the middle in water which the thaw had caused, and gave up the pursuit. To make matters worse for the British, the influence of the French over the Dutch had become so great that the villagers took every opportunity of insulting and even injuring the troops as they marched through the country, and whether the

soldiers were starving with hunger or freezing to death with cold, their doors were equally shut against them, ungratefully forgetting that to preserve the independence of their country all their sufferings had been endured. However, these were nearly at an end. On the 25th and 28th March the troops, in two divisions, entered Bremen (not, however, without a protest from the inhabitants), and by the 12th April they had all been embarked, and putting to sea, to their intense delight, reached the shores of England in safety.

While the battalion companies of the 55th had been thus employed, the flank companies had been no less actively engaged in the West Indies. It has been shewn that Sir Charles Grey left Ostend in November, 1793, and proceeded to his original destination. He arrived at the island of Barbadoes in the latter end of January, 1794, and immediately made dispositions to attack the French islands. Leaving Brevet Lieutenant-Colonel Gomm, of the 55th, to command in his absence, he, with Admiral Sir John Jervis, started for Martinique on the 2nd February, and effected a landing at three points on the 5th, 6th, and 8th. Several strong posts were captured, amongst which was that of the battery of Morne Bellvieu, which was stormed by the grenadier companies of the 16th, 35th, and 55th Regiments, supported by those of the 9th and 65th Regiments. The attack succeeding, the 55th were left in possession, and the remainder proceeded to St. Pierre. On the 16th March the light companies of the 44th and 55th Regiments arrived from Lisbon, "without any sick and in the highest order," and proved a welcome reinforcement though a small one; and on the same day the sieges of Fort Royal and Fort Bourbon were formed. The latter was attacked at once by the 15th Regiment, and on the following day H.R.H. Prince Edward (afterwards the Duke of Kent and father of Her Majesty the Queen) led the grenadiers to assault the former,* and so well were these operations carried on that Fort Royal surrendered on the 20th, and Fort

* When His Royal Highness placed himself at the head of his grenadiers he addressed them as follows:—"Grenadiers! this is St. Patrick's Day. The English will do their duty in compliment to the Irish, and the Irish in compliment to the Saint! Forward grenadiers!"

Bourbon, and with it all Martinique, on the 23rd March, 1794.

The island of St. Lucia was the next to be attended to, and on the 30th three battalions of grenadiers under Prince Edward, three of light infantry under Major-General Dundas, and the 6th, 9th, and 43rd Regiments under Colonel Sir Charles Gordon, proceeded against it, landed on the 1st April, and at once commenced operations; and on the 4th the island was surrendered by General Ricard, the Governor, after the troops had assaulted and carried the outworks of Morne Fortuna. Leaving a small garrison at St. Lucia, the remainder, including the grenadier and light infantry battalions, proceeded to Guadaloupe, where they landed on the 11th April, and completed its conquest by the 20th, and leaving a sufficient garrison here also, the expedition sailed away.

The yellow fever now broke out among the troops, and continued so severe that it threatened to annihilate them; and at this juncture a French fleet appeared off the island, and disembarked one thousand five hundred men under Victor Hugues. These at once attacked Fort Fleur d'Epee, the principal post on Grand Terre, where Colonel Drummond was posted, who was soon forced to evacuate the fort, and with only forty men he got away to Grand Terre. As soon as this state of affairs became known to Sir Charles Grey, he immediately sent round to the other islands for all the troops they could spare, and with Sir John Jervis returned to Guadaloupe, where they arrived on the 7th and 19th June respectively, and found the French also in possession of Grand Terre. Vigorous efforts were now made to recover the island. An attack made on Grand Terre was successful, some important passes were retaken, and a series of most determined conflicts took place between the English and French, who had already trained large bodies of slaves and mulattoes to meet the English at the point of the bayonet; but sickness was making greater havoc in their ranks than the French bullets. The rainy season set in, and all their efforts to retake Fleur d'Epee were unsuccessful. One more attempt, however, was made on the 1st July, but failed, with an immense loss, including the Brigadier-General, who fell mortally wounded, and Lieutenant-Colonel Gomm, of the 55th, who commanded the 1st light infantry battalion, and was killed at the head of his "Light Bobs." And as it was found impossible to retake

the fort, the shattered forces retreated across the river Salee to Basse Terre, having lost in these assaults twelve officers and one hundred men. Sir Charles Grey now left the island to beat up for reinforcements, leaving Brigadier-General Graham to maintain his footing in it until his return. The season had now passed for active military operations, and Graham having intrenched himself at Berville, anxiously awaited the promised reinforcements. Meanwhile sickness made greater havoc than ever, so much so, that it seemed as if no operations on the part of the French would be necessary to rid the island of the British; for on the 1st September, out of a garrison of one thousand seven hundred and sixty-four men, comprising five 1764
regiments and two flank battalions, only three hundred and eighty-nine 559 could be mustered for duty, all the rest being sick. The flank battalions, which contained the grenadier and light companies of the 34th* and 55th Regiments, had five hundred and ninety men sick out of a strength of seven hundred and seventy-five! To put Graham into still greater straits the French received considerable reinforcements, and attacked him on the 27th September with great vigour. He defended himself with the greatest gallantry until the 6th 125
October, when his scanty force having become reduced to *one hundred and twenty-five* effective men, he was forced to surrender.

By the terms of capitulation, they were to march out with the honours of war, and be embarked on French ships, which were to sail for England within twenty-one days; but this part of the agreement was most shamefully violated, and they remained prisoners for more than a year afterwards, during which time a great many of them died. Of the flank companies which originally formed the grenadier and light infantry battalions very few ever rejoined their regiments, most of the privates having been afterwards drafted into the 45th Regiment to fill the gaps in its attenuated ranks. Of the officers of the 55th, Brevet Lieutenant-Colonel William Gomm, two captains, and three lieutenants, died during 1794, and two lieutenants were living at Point à Pitre on 1st January, 1795, prisoners to

* It does not appear when the 34th arrived in the West Indies; but although mentioned here for the first time, they no doubt formed part of the original expedition, and were brought from one of the other islands to reinforce Guadaloupe.

Victor Hugues. The French were now gradually recovering their losses in the West Indies.

In the middle of February, 1795, the battalion companies of the 34th embarked for the West Indies, and landing at St. Lucia, took part in the defence of that island, in which it lost several men. The enemy, however, attacked it in such great force that, after a series of actions in which he sustained considerable loss, Brigadier-General Stewart was in April forced to evacuate the island and proceed to Martinique; but the 34th were sent to St. Vincent, where the Charibs were in arms against the British.

To recover our supremacy in the West Indies, a grand expedition was decided upon, and about the middle of the year 1795 the troops commenced to assemble,—those from Ireland at Cork, and those in the United Kingdom in the vicinity of Portsmouth. The command was given to Sir Ralph Abercrombie, whose force amounted to the grand total of three thousand and sixty cavalry and twenty-two thousand one hundred and fifty-nine infantry (the 55th being amongst the number), which were embarked in three hundred vessels by the 27th October, and placed under the protection of Admiral Sir Hugh Christian. It was intended they should all sail across the Atlantic in company, in order to make a grand display of the armament, but a succession of storms, the like of which had not been known for many years, drove back the transports, and it was not until the 14th February in the following year, after a series of unsuccessful attempts, in which many of his ships were disabled or sunk, Sir Ralph was able to clear the English Channel and make a fair start for his destination, leaving Sir Hugh to follow with a number of transports, which were not even ready when he himself sailed.

After a fair voyage, Sir Ralph arrived at Barbadoes on the 14th March, and at once set to work to fulfil the objects of the expedition. A delay of another month was, however, caused by the non-arrival of the Admiral; but he making his appearance on the 22nd April, active operations were at once commenced. Sir Ralph had already sent General Whyte with three regiments to reduce Demerara and Berbice, and six others were afterwards sent to reinforce the weak garrisons of Grenada and St. Vincent (where was the 34th Regiment), and on Sir Hugh's arrival he immediately sailed, and on the 26th appeared off St. Lucia. The 55th for the third time took part in the

reduction of this island, and their Lieutenant-Colonel, the distinguished Donald Macdonald, had the honour to command the reserve, which was composed of eighteen grenadier companies of the expedition.

Having landed in four columns on the island, the troops, on the morning of the 27th, moved forward to the attack of Morne Fortuna. It was soon seen that the French did not intend to let the island slip so easily out of their possession as it had in April, 1794, for a most vigorous resistance was made to their advance. By the 29th, however, the two strong posts of Morne Chabot and Morne Duchassau had been captured, and Morne Fortuna was completely invested. On the 1st May, the enemy made a sortie on the advanced posts of Colonel Macdonald's grenadiers, and were with difficulty repulsed ; and on the 3rd, an attack upon two batteries at the foot of Morne Fortuna by the 42nd and detachments of the 57th and Malcolm's Rangers, supported by the 55th, failed, although one of the batteries had been carried in a gallant manner. An assault on the Vizie by the 31st Regiment, on the 17th May, was also repulsed, so that altogether affairs did not seem to be progressing so favourably as Sir Ralph desired ; but the heavy guns having been after the most strenuous exertions placed in position, a continued fire upon the fort was kept up for six days, and on the 24th a lodgment was effected by General John Moore at two points, within five hundred yards of the walls, and all the efforts of the French could not dislodge them. The same evening they desired a suspension of arms until the next day, on the termination of which the whole island was surrendered to the British. Leaving the 31st, 44th, 48th, and 55th Regiments with a corps of German Yagers and Malcolm's Rangers, Sir Ralph proceeded with the remainder of the troops to fresh victories.

General Moore soon found he had no easy task to perform in completing the conquest of St. Lucia. The interior was filled with rebellious Charibs and runaway slaves, who had been joined by numbers of French troops who had deserted from the forts on the capitulation, and these kept up a continual war of plunder until the General succeeded in penetrating the woods and mountain fastnesses, and compelled them to unconditional surrender. As usual, however, the British suffered immensely from sickness ; yellow fever broke out, and their hardships were aggravated by the use of salt provisions and

the absence of tents during the excessive rains. The mortality in their ranks was truly fearful. The 31st Regiment was almost annihilated, and had to be sent to Barbadoes, having dwindled down to seventy-four men. The 55th does not appear to have suffered quite so much as the other corps, although it is stated to have lost thirty officers and upwards of two-thirds of the men, but how severely may be judged from the fact that, at the end of the thirteen months (from May, 1796, to June, 1797), out of a total of three thousand eight hundred and ninety, of which the four regiments originally consisted, there only remained four hundred and seventy men fit for duty. The garrisons of the other islands fared no better, and in the same period the deaths among the forces on the West Indian station amounted to the astounding number of two hundred and sixty-four officers, and twelve thousand three hundred and eighty-seven men! The 44th and 48th Regiments were now ordered home, but they drafted what few effective men they had into the 55th, which, with the 87th Regiment lately arrived from England, remained on the island.

The 34th in St. Vincent had had no easy times. Constantly harassed by the insurgent Charibs, they could do little effectually until the arrival of reinforcements in June, when the troops assumed the offensive and in a few days effected the complete reduction of the island. In these operations the regiment lost nine men killed, and three officers and twenty-eight men wounded; one of the officers (a volunteer) died of his wounds. The Charibs had, however, given the British so much trouble, that to give permanent peace to the island it was determined to remove them from it altogether. These, numbering five thousand men, with their wives and families, were therefore shipped off to Isle Ratan, in the Gulf of Mexico, from whence they were afterwards sent to the mainland of South America, where they were allowed to settle. This duty, which was a very harassing one, and not executed by the troops without loss, was shared in by the 34th, and having been satisfactorily performed, the regiment, greatly reduced by the severe privations it had undergone, embarked for England, where it arrived on the 8th October, and was quartered at Poole, in Dorsetshire. The 55th does not seem to have remained much longer in St. Lucia, for towards the end of 1797 we find it quartered at Chatham, whither it had proceeded to recruit its skeleton companies.

Sir Ralph Abercrombie, who had some time before returned from the West Indies, was not suffered to remain long without active employment, and in July, 1799, he was sent with an expedition to North Holland, to attempt its liberation from the French Republic, the 55th, at his particular request, forming part of it, although recruiting had been carried on so slow that it numbered only four hundred and forty-three non-commissioned officers and men. On the 8th August the expedition, which had assembled at Barham Downs, began to embark, and on the 13th the 55th embarked at Deal, and was ordered to form, with the 23rd Regiment, the reserve of the army under Colonel Macdonald, who received this high honour from Sir Ralph a second time in the short space of three years.

On the 21st August the fleet anchored off the Helder, but in consequence of continued stormy weather, the disembarkation of the troops could not take place until the 27th, when this was commenced by the 1st division, under Sir James Pulteney, and effected without hindrance; but as soon as he had formed up, and the reserve, consisting, as before stated, of the 23rd and 55th Regiments, they were attacked by the Dutch forces under General Dandaels, and a severe action ensued. The remainder of the troops had in the meantime disembarked and shared in the fight, but in consequence of the position being covered with sand hills, and not adapted to good formations, only one or two battalions could form line at one time, and this also preventing the artillery from being brought up, the action was almost entirely confined to musketry. However, at about three o'clock in the afternoon, the Dutch, worn out by the obstinacy with which the British withstood their attacks, which had lasted since five o'clock in the morning, were compelled to retire with a very heavy loss in killed and wounded. The next day General John Moore took possession of the Helder Fort, and on the 30th the whole Dutch fleet in the Zuyder Zee surrendered to the British Admiral without striking a blow in their defence.

Two days after this Abercrombie was reinforced by General Don with five thousand men, and feeling himself strong enough to hazard an advance, moved from his uncomfortable position on the sand hills, and took up that just vacated by General Dandaels. Here he intrenched himself, awaiting the arrival of a contingent of Russians, and of H.R.H. the Duke of York, who was to have the supreme command of the expedition;

but the French General, Brune, having joined the enemy's force with reinforcements, thought he would do well to attack Abercrombie before the Duke's arrival. He therefore massed his combined force of French and Dutch in front of Alkmaer, and early on the morning of the 10th September attacked the British positions with three columns; but he could gain no advantage; Abercrombie was too strongly posted for him, and despite all his efforts his army was at ten o'clock in full and disorderly retreat. The reserve, under Colonel Macdonald, which had not been actively engaged, were now sent in pursuit, but the French were too quick in their retreat for Macdonald to come up with them.

On the 13th the Duke of York landed with the remainder of the troops, and on the 19th made a grand attack upon the enemy's positions with his whole force. He divided his army into four columns, one of which, containing the flower of his troops, commanded by Abercrombie, marched on the previous evening in order to outflank the enemy's right by making a large circuit in that direction. This column, marching at six p.m. on the 18th, headed by the 55th Regiment, reached at two in the morning the town of Hoorn, which surrendered on the first summons; and here Sir Ralph halted, awaiting intelligence of the other columns. These had been ordered to commence the attack at daybreak that morning, but before the appointed time had arrived the Russians, under General Herman, fell upon the French at the Slapper Dyke, and drove them back beyond Bergen, of which they took possession; but here they spread themselves through the town, drinking and plundering instead of following up their advantage, consequently the French were able to bring up fresh troops in this direction, and surprised them in a shameful state of drunkenness, upon which, after making a slight resistance, the Russians ignominiously turned and fled, leaving General Herman, with more than two thousand men and twenty-six pieces of cannon, in the hands of the French. In the meantime the British columns had been set in motion at the appointed time, and had successfully engaged the enemy on every point and driven them back; but on hearing of the defeat of the Russians, H.R.H. the Duke of York withdrew his advanced posts in order to give them time and opportunity to reform; but the rout had been too complete for General Essen (the next in command) to rally them, and consequently the Duke had to

fall back as his right was completely exposed, and calling in Sir James Pulteney, who had already defeated the enemy's right wing, both armies retired to their original situations, and busied themselves in strengthening their positions. Sir Ralph Abercrombie, who had been waiting all day at Hoorn for intelligence, at length received orders to fall back, and the column, abandoning the town, marched back a long wearisome journey of twenty miles to their old position. It has been considered a fatal mistake of His Royal Highness to have detached his best General and so many of his troops so far to his left, for had they been near enough they might have compensated for the rashness of the Russians and changed an indecisive action into a complete victory. Both sides suffered severely in killed and wounded, although the advantage was on the side of the British. General Brune, fearing another action would have a different and more decisive result, strengthened his position by cutting the dykes and contracting the ground of operations; but the Duke, who had received another small reinforcement, determined to renew the attack; and Brune would have had very little breathing time but that heavy rains just yet prevented his advance.

On the 2nd October, however, he marched his army, now numbering thirty thousand men, against the French. As before, they were divided into four columns; but this time Abercrombie took the right of the line next the sea. The attack was commenced at half-past six in the morning by the reserve, now augmented to four battalions, which formed the advanced guard of Sir Ralph's division, and which, becoming engaged with the enemy, drove them from Campe and the sand hills behind that village. Continuing its advance, but inclining to the left, it became separated from Abercrombie, and could not rejoin him till late in the day. Meanwhile the whole of the divisions coming into action, became hotly engaged with the French, who bravely disputed their advance; but they were gradually pushed back, and after a severe contest the heights of Bergen were crowned by the British troops at about four o'clock. During the general advance, which took place shortly before this, the reserve, which had moved forwards too rapidly, found themselves far in advance of the corps on their right and left; and as a formidable column of French appeared right in their front, Colonel Macdonald deemed it prudent to fall back a little. He therefore directed the 55th to cover the

retirement of the other three battalions, which they succeeded in doing, and were themselves filing off to the rear when the enemy advanced, covered with a cloud of skirmishers. A party of these, we are told, succeeded in getting to within thirty or forty yards of the regiment, and annoyed it very much with their fire; and to disperse them, Major Lumsden, the commanding officer of the 55th, ordered one of the companies to form up and drive them off with the bayonet, which they soon did, but the gallant Major fell shot through the heart before this was accomplished.* Sir Ralph, not having yet cleared the French from his immediate front, Colonel Macdonald, with the 23rd and 55th Regiments, was now sent to his assistance, and he having at last beaten them off, penetrated as far as Egmont-op-Zee, where his tired troops lay upon their arms during the night.

The Duke of York being determined to follow up his advantage, especially as he had received information that Brune was expecting to be shortly joined by a very strong reinforcement, pushed forward his outposts on the 6th to Akersloot and Baccum. This was all he intended to do for the present; but the Russians pushed on without orders to Kastrikum, and Brune, bringing up his whole force, the action, from an affair of outposts, became general along the whole line from Limmen to the sea. For four hours it raged with the greatest obstinacy, when the Russians, having been forced to fall back, Sir Ralph sent the reserve to their assistance, by which means they were enabled to beat off their foes and take their place again in the line. The battle continued with various fortunes until, as night was coming on, the French gave way on all points, and left the Duke master of the field.

His Royal Highness now found himself in a very critical position; for although he had valiantly contested every battle, he could not force his way out of the wretched corner of the country in which he was hemmed in, for the last action having left General Brune's position unimpaired, he was as far as ever from Haarlaem, which he had hoped to gain before the winter

* How strange, in these days of Sniders and Martini-Henrys, to read of skirmishers annoying a regiment at a distance of *thirty or forty yards*, and of a company deliberately forming to the front with, no doubt, all the precision of a parade movement, and *driving them off with the bayonet*!

fully set in. His army had already suffered very severely, having all this time been lying wholly exposed on the unsheltered sand hills. Sickness was daily increasing and his supplies were running short, but no assistance could be obtained from the Dutch, who viewed his efforts for the liberation of their country with apathy and indifference. On the other hand the French were revelling in plenty, reinforcements to the number of six thousand men had joined them, and they were preparing to attack him; and as he now could hope only to maintain his ground, he saw the uselessness of continuing so hopeless a struggle. He therefore determined to withdraw his army and abandon the enterprise, and by ten o'clock on the night of the 7th October he was in full retreat to his former positions on the Zype Dyke. However, as an embarkation in the presence of a force superior in numbers would have entailed a heavy loss on the British, negotiations were opened with General Brune, and a convention was signed, in which it was agreed that North Holland should be evacuated by the 30th November, but by the 19th of that month the whole of the expedition had embarked and sailed for England, where, on arrival, they were put into quarters, the 55th being sent to Canterbury, and the Russians to Jersey and Guernsey. The losses of the regiment during this six weeks' campaign consisted of one officer, one serjeant, and fourteen rank and file killed, and five officers, eight serjeants, and eighty-eight rank and file wounded, making a total of one hundred and seventeen officers and men.

CHAPTER V.

In January, 1800, the 34th, after little more than two years' home service, embarked at Portsmouth for the Cape of Good Hope, where it landed on the 21st May, and was quartered in Cape Town; but the colony having been restored to the Dutch, according to the terms of the treaty of Amiens, which had been signed on the 27th of March, 1802, the 34th proceeded to the East Indies, and landed at Madras on the 2nd February, 1803. By this time, however, a new ground of quarrel had been found by Napoleon, and it was clearly seen that it could not be very long before the war would be renewed. This did occur in the following May, when the formal declaration was made, which was soon followed by Napoleon renewing, and on a larger scale than before, his preparations for an invasion of England.

Among the many acts of the Government to put the country into a proper state of defence was the adding to many of the infantry regiments 2nd battalions, and the 34th was one of these so selected; but it was not until the spring of 1805 that it was formed. As it was only twenty years before that the 34th had been named the "Cumberland" regiment, it would appear reasonable to suppose that the 2nd battalion would have been formed in its own county; but Cumberland and Westmorland had, in 1804, been appropriated as the recruiting field of the 2nd battalion of the 25th "Sussex" Regiment, and the new battalion was formed at Ashton, in Kent, principally by volunteers from the 1st East York, 3rd West York, 1st Lancashire, South Lincoln, and East Essex Regiments of Militia, and placed on the establishment of the army on the 25th April.

Soon after its formation it was moved to Colchester, and in the following November marched to Ramsgate to embark for Hanover to join the force under Lord Cathcart, which had been sent to co-operate in the measures of the Allied Confederations; but on the occupation of that country by the Prussians, on

the defeat of the Austrians and Russians at Austerlitz, the British contingent returned to England, and the 2nd battalion of the 34th was quartered on the coast of Sussex. In April, 1806, it was moved to Jersey, and in May of the following year was ordered to Ceylon, but its destination was changed, and it proceeded to Cork to join a secret expedition assembling under General Beresford; but although the expedition proceeded to Madeira, the 34th were disembarked, sent to Bandon barracks, and placed under orders for India. However, when they had arrived at Spithead these orders were again countermanded, and in May, 1808, they returned to their old quarters in Jersey.

Meanwhile the 1st battalion continued in the Madras Presidency, from whence, during the year 1803, it detached four companies to Ceylon, which had been captured from the Dutch; but in March, 1805, these rejoined their head-quarters at Wallajahad. In October, 1806, the battalion moved to Bellary, where they remained for the next three years, when the disaffection of the native army—and particularly of the European officers, who had caused an open rupture with the civil authorities of Madras,—occasioned it to be withdrawn from garrison and employed on services necessary to bring them to submission. Accordingly, in October, 1809, it joined the field force under Colonel Conran of the 1st Royals, and on the 8th May following it encamped at Jaulnah, where it remained in tents during the periodical heavy rains, and until it was moved into temporary barracks in October. At this station the battalion suffered very severely from sickness, and on its departure in May, 1811, for Secunderabad, left one hundred and thirty men sick in hospital.

We must now return to the 2nd battalion, which we left in Jersey. In the summer of 1809 it was completed to one thousand men, and embarked for the Peninsula, to join the army under Sir Arthur Wellesley, who had been sent to relieve Portugal of the oppressive presence of the French armies. On the 4th July it landed at Lisbon, and joining Brigadier-General James C. Crauford's brigade, was encamped near that city for three weeks, afterwards proceeding up the Tagus to Santarem, from whence it marched to join the main army under Sir Arthur (now Lord Wellington) in Spanish Estremadura. The 34th was however left in village cantonments on the right bank of the Guadiana, near Badajoz, where it remained when

Wellington marched northwards. The next year it was employed in Sir Rowland Hill's division in defending the Alemtejo frontier against General Reynier. On the 27th September, Marshal Massena assailed furiously the British position on the heights above Busaco; but after astonishing efforts he was forced to retire, with a loss of six thousand killed and wounded. The British afterwards retired within the impregnable lines of Torres Vedras, a double line of fortifications which Wellington had established between Torres Vedras and the Tagus for the defence of Lisbon, and into which he retired for the winter. Massena, who had followed him as far as he could, remained in front of the formidable lines until November, when he retired and took up a position at Santarem, which he held until famine caused him to retreat on the 5th March, 1811. The 34th had been, during the winter, posted within the lines at Calendrix and Bucellas, and now it accompanied Sir Rowland Hill across the Tagus with the view of succouring Abrantes; but as the enemy were at this time at Santarem, the division was halted at Chamusca, and the 34th passed the remainder of the winter in villages on the left bank of the Tagus. It was subsequently assigned the duty of watching the enemy, to prevent them crossing the river; and on one occasion its light company formed part of a force which dislodged the French from an island which they had taken possession of, and which was occupied by the 34th until the retreat of the enemy, when the British army having been put in motion by Lord Wellington, the battalion was detached with other forces, under Sir William Beresford, to the relief of Campo Mayor, which, however, surrendered to the French before the relieving force could arrive. Beresford now laid siege to Badajoz; but hearing soon after that Marshal Soult was advancing to its relief, he fearing he would be unable to take the place before his arrival, raised the siege and moved forward to meet him. The 2nd battalion of the 34th were at this time brigaded with the 1st battalion of the 28th and the 2nd battalion of the 39th Regiments, under Colonel the Hon. Alexander Abercromby.

Beresford having taken up a position on the heights behind the river Albuhera, with the village of that name in front of his left, and a succession of knolls in front of his right, awaited the French advance. His army consisted of thirty thousand men; but of these only six thousand were British, one half of his force being Spaniards and the rest Portuguese.

On the evening of the 15th May, Soult having neared the position, reconnoitred the disposition of Beresford's forces, and discovering the weakness of his right, where the Spaniards were posted, determined to make his principal attack on that part of the line. Accordingly, during the night, he massed fifteen thousand of his troops, with forty guns, in front of Beresford's right, while the other half he massed in a wood, higher up the river, opposite to his left, and so skilfully did he execute these movements that Beresford remained quite unaware of his projects. At eight o'clock next morning Soult marched his right wing upon Albuhera, while with his left he led the main attack upon the Spaniards. These he soon became engaged with; but the raw Spanish material was no match for his splendid battalions, and after losing a few hundred men, the Spaniards were forced from the heights and retired from the field, leaving the brunt of the battle to be borne by the British. The French now came into line at a right angle to the British, and Soult ordering up his reserves, moved on to complete the victory he believed he had in his hands. General Stewart's division was, however, sent to stop his advance, and he, passing through the disorganized Spaniards, mounted the heights, and opened upon the French so destructive a fire as to check them for the moment; but a storm of rain prevented his seeing a column of Polish Lancers, which turned his right flank and fell upon his rear, and two of his regiments were cut to pieces before reinforcements could be sent to his aid. General Houghton, however, moved up, and maintained the unequal contest for some time; but fortune seemed to be going against Beresford, and he even meditated a retreat, as it seemed almost certain he would be overpowered. But another effort was made to gain the hill, and Sir Lowry Cole, leading the Fusilier brigade, rushed up its sides to meet its defenders. They were met with a terrific fire from the enemy's columns, who were eagerly pressing forward; but recovering from the shock the Fusiliers closed upon them, and Abercromby, with the 28th, 34th, and 39th Regiments, coming up on the left, after a brief but bloody contest the French fell into confusion; the reserves closing into the fight only increased it, and the British moving steadily forward drove them to the farthest edge of the hill, when "the mighty mass giving way like a loosened cliff, went headlong down the ascent. The rain flowed after in streams

discoloured with blood, and one thousand five hundred unwounded men, the remnant of six thousand unconquerable British soldiers, stood triumphant on the fatal hill.* In this sanguinary struggle fifteen thousand men were killed and wounded,† eight thousand of whom were French, in the short space of four hours. The loss of the 34th, including Ensign Sarsfield, who was killed whilst carrying the regimental colour, comprised three officers and thirty men killed, and four officers and ninety-one men wounded, making a total loss of one hundred and twenty-eight officers and men. So reduced was the British after this battle, that after establishing the picquets for the night there were not men enough left to carry in the wounded, and the Spanish General on being applied to for assistance, replied "that each of the allied powers must look after its own wounded," and declined to extend the least relief to those heroic sufferers, "who by a prodigal expenditure of their blood alone had saved his sluggish legions from extermination."‡

The siege of Badajoz was now renewed by Beresford, but Marshals Massena and Soult having again advanced to its relief with two powerful armies, the siege was abandoned, and the British retired behind the Caya, where the French did not venture to attack them. Lord Wellington afterwards marched into the province of Beira, leaving ten thousand men, among whom were the 34th, in the Alemtejo under Sir Rowland Hill, from whence, on the 22nd October, Sir Rowland advanced to drive the French, under General Girard, from Caceres. These retired upon his approaching them, and halted on the night of the 27th at the village of Arroyo dos Molinos, situated at the foot of a ridge of mountains. At daybreak on the following morning Girard, who was just ready to commence his march, was surprised by the British, whose approach had been concealed by heavy rain and mist, dashing into the village. Forming squares, he immediately commenced to retreat, but

* Napier.

† It was in this battle the 57th Regiment earned the regimental *sobriquet* of the "Die-hards." "Die hard, my men! die hard!" shouted Colonel Inglis, as the 57th were closely pressed by the swarming French columns, and nobly answering to his call four hundred men and twenty-three officers, including the gallant colonel himself, met a soldier's death on the hard fought field of Albuhera.

‡ W. H. Maxwell.

British prowess was too much for his battalions, and they soon fell into disorder, a great number dispersing and attempting to escape among the rocks. The 28th and 34th had been sent to cut off their retreat by the main road, and here the 2nd battalion of the British 34th came in contact with a battalion of the French 34th Regiment, and took the whole of them prisoners, together with their Colonel, Prince D'Aremberg, and General De Brun. Serjeant Moses Simpson wrenched the French drum-major's staff out of his hands, and took their brass drums; and the Cumberland 34th came out of the action with the French 34th caps upon their heads. The regiment was afterwards allowed to commemorate this brilliant exploit by wearing in their shakos a red and white tuft, in imitation of the French pom-pom. It is stated that several of the French officers, as they tendered their swords to the English officers, embraced them, saying, "Ah, gentlemen, we are brothers; we are the Thirty-fourth, both of us! You are brave. The English always fight with chivalry, and treat their prisoners well. Ah, gentlemen, the fortune of war is very capricious!" It may be noted, *en passant*, that these very drums and the drum-major's staff are still in the possession of the 34th Regiment, which received them from the 2nd battalion on its being disbanded in 1817.

After this affair Sir Rowland returned to the Alemtejo, but towards the end of December again advanced into Spain; and in January, 1812, covered the siege of Ciudad Rodrigo, which was taken by storm on the 19th of that month. The 34th and the division were similarly employed, covering the siege of Badajoz, which, after having successfully resisted two sieges, was at length taken by storm on the night of the 6th April; and when Wellington proceeded towards the northern frontiers of Portugal, the 34th was left in Estremadura. On the 18th May it took part in what Lord Wellington termed the "brilliant exploit" of destroying the enemy's communications across the Tagus at Almaraz, which was completely successful; and the works and bridge having been demolished, the troops retired. After Wellington's decisive victory at Salamanca, on the 22nd July, Sir Rowland Hill's division advanced through the Spanish provinces upon Madrid, but the French forces having been concentrated, the British were, towards the end of the year, obliged to retire to the frontiers of Portugal, where they went into winter quarters.

In the following May the army again took the field, and pushing on towards the north of Spain, came up to the French, under King Joseph and Marshal Jourdan, in front of the town of Vittoria, in June, 1813. The enemy held possession of the three great roads leading to Bayonne, with a very broken and rugged country in their front. Sending Hill with three divisions to attack the enemy's left, and another to their right, Wellington advanced two columns to attack Vittoria in front and flank. The work of these had been rendered easier by the enemy having weakened his centre at the expense of his flanks, which were first attacked; but the attacks of the British were made with so much vigour, that King Joseph was scared at their precipitancy, and when, as Napier says, his army was not yet half beaten, it all at once fell into confusion, became demoralized, and fled towards Bayonne, leaving all their guns and a vast quantity of treasure behind them on the field. In this battle, fought on the 21st June, the 34th had ten rank and file killed, three lieutenants, four serjeants, and fifty-nine rank and file wounded, a total loss of seventy-six officers and men. Marshal Soult having managed to take up some strong positions among the Pyrennees, the Marquis of Wellington followed him thither, but as he had now removed so far from the frontiers of Portugal, it became necessary to fix upon a fresh base of operations, for which purpose he selected the towns of San Sebastian and Pampeluna, and to the latter place Hill was sent to effect its capture. He, however, soon found that his force was too weak for the object, and leaving his Spanish and Portuguese troops to blockade the town, he abandoned the task and marched away.

In the early part of July, the 34th took part in forcing the enemy from the valley of Bastan and the heights of Maya, after which they were employed guarding the Col-de-Maya, one of the entrances to the valley, being encamped in the Arestesque Pass. This pass was assailed on the morning of the 25th July by a numerous force, under Marshal Soult, whose object was to break through the mountains and relieve San Sebastian and Pampeluna. The brunt of the attack fell upon the 34th, who valiantly contested the post, but was at length forced to retire with heavy loss, but being gallantly supported by the 28th and 39th Regiments, they in the end arrested the progress of the enemy and retained possession of the key of the pass, although Soult had established his columns

on the ridge of the position. In this affair the 34th suffered a loss of thirty-nine killed, sixty wounded, and eighty-three prisoners, many of whom were wounded, making a grand total of one hundred and eighty-three (eleven of whom were officers), out of a strength of five hundred and thirty officers and men engaged. During the night Sir Rowland retired, and joined the force blockading Pampeluna, taking post on the left of the line; and Soult making another attempt on the 30th to break through the cordon, a sharp combat ensued, in which he was repulsed, and Hill having been directed to pursue him, came up with his rear guard on the following morning in a wood beyond Lizasso. Here they made so formidable a resistance that the 1st brigade of the 2nd division was repulsed, but the 2nd brigade led by the 34th pressing forwards, turned the tide of battle, and the French were beaten. These actions fought among the mountains received the name of the "Battles of the Pyrennees," and in the different operations the 34th lost, in addition to those already noted, eight men killed, two officers and thirty-nine men wounded, and two men missing, being a total loss of two hundred and thirty-four officers and men.

On the army resuming its positions in the Pyrennees, the 34th were encamped at Roncesvalles until the end of October, when, San Sebastian having been successfully stormed and Pampeluna having capitulated, the Peninsula was cleared of the French invaders, and Wellington resumed his onward march, and on the 10th November the British entered France by crossing the Nivelle and forcing the enemy from his intrenched positions beyond that river. These operations were followed by the passage of the river Nive on the 9th, 10th, and 11th of December, Soult being forced to fall back before the conquering army of Wellington. On the 13th, however, he made a dash at Hill's division, but was driven back into his camp in front of Bayonne, before which the 34th and the remainder of the brigade took post in a ravine, but were relieved by the 3rd brigade the same night. The loss of the 34th on these occasions was one man killed and twelve wounded. Soon after the battalion went into cantonments at St. Pierre, near Bayonne, where they remained until February, 1814, when the army again advanced, the enemy still slowly falling back before them. Soult, however, made a stand at Orthes on the 27th, but only to be again beaten, and that with

a loss of seven thousand in killed, wounded, and prisoners. Sir Rowland's division on this occasion turned the left of the French position, and the British impetuously pressing forward turned their retreat into a flight, from which they only obtained temporary shelter by crossing the *Luy de Bearn*.

Still onward strode Wellington until he had passed the *Garonne* and had again come up to *Soult* before *Toulouse*. In his last desperate effort the French Marshal had strongly intrenched himself in a very formidable position, "but he was not destined to close his disastrous campaign with one gleam of victory," and on Sunday the 10th April Wellington attacked his long line of redoubts, and, despite his superiority in artillery and the obstinate resistance of his troops, all his positions were carried. Twice, however, did *Soult* attempt to retake them, and twice was he repulsed with great loss; and during the night of the 11th he evacuated *Toulouse* by the only road open to him, and retreated. In this battle Hill's division was in reserve and only partially engaged; the 34th, however, suffered a loss of thirteen in killed and wounded, amongst whom was Major Baker, who fell mortally wounded and died shortly afterwards.

The retreating army was followed some distance; but the Allies having in the meantime entered *Paris*, *Napoleon* abdicated the throne of France, the Bourbon family were reinstated thereon in the person of *Louis XVIII*, and hostilities at once ceased upon this information reaching Wellington on the 21st April. The 34th returned to *Toulouse*, where they remained a short time, and then marched for *Bordeaux*, and on the 17th July embarked for *Ireland*.

We left the 1st battalion of the 34th Regiment in *India*, where in May, 1811, it had just started for *Secunderabad*. In this station it remained until the 19th June, 1814, when it commenced its march for *Seringapatam*, where it arrived on the 10th August and relieved the 1st battalion of the 69th Regiment, but its climate not proving favourable to the health of the men it left that fortress in August, 1815, and took up its quarters at *Vellore* on the 9th October. From this place, in the following February, thirteen officers and three hundred and thirty men proceeded to *Cuddalore*, on the sea coast, where they were stationed six months for the recovery of their health. Early in 1817 the battalion, leaving a detachment at *Vellore*, took the field, and joined the division under Major-General

Browne, assembled to guard the passes near Naggery against the incursions of the Pindarees; but in February it returned to Vellore. Shortly afterwards, however, it was again called upon to take the field, this time against the Mahrattas, who, with the Pindarees, had by their intrigues and depredations thrown the whole country into a state of alarm. The former, wishing to re-establish the supreme authority of the Peishwa, had called to their aid the marauding tribes of the latter, and these having warmly entered into their views nothing was wanting but the signal for them to carry fire and sword into the territories of the Hon. East India Company. Lord Moira, however, to whom their intrigues had become known, determined to fall upon them at once; and although their armies mustered the formidable numbers of one hundred and thirty thousand cavalry, eighty-seven thousand three hundred infantry, and five hundred and eighty-nine guns, against which he could oppose only one hundred and sixteen thousand four hundred men of all services, with two hundred and ninety-five guns, yet in two years he completely overthrew them, deposed the Peishwa and appropriated his territories, and completely extinguished the power of the Pindarees.

The part played by the 34th in these important affairs must be briefly told. In April the grenadier and light companies, numbering eight officers, eight serjeants, six drummers, and two hundred rank and file, under the command of Captain Tew, marched from Vellore, and joining a division of the army under Brigadier-General Munro at Adoni, were formed into a flank battalion with the flank companies of the 69th and 84th Regiments, which was afterwards joined by the flank companies of the 53rd Regiment. This division penetrated the Southern Mahratta country, and captured the fortresses of Dummul, Kooshgul, and Darwar, halting at the last named place during the rainy season, and proceeding again into the interior in October. On the 8th January, 1818, it overtook the rear of the Peishwa's army at the Salpee Pass, when the Mahratta troops fled in every direction, the division pursuing the main body until it separated, when it proceeded northwards.

The services of the battalion companies of the 34th were now called into requisition, and proceeding to Bangalore they joined Major-General Long's division on the banks of the Toombudra, where they remained for some time, when in

consequence of their suffering severely from dysentery they were removed into garrison at Bellary.

In the meantime the flank companies had been transferred to the Bombay army ; but after the surrender of the hill fort of Sattarah, they separated from that force and proceeded with Brigadier-General Pritzler's division to the Salpee Pass, and took part in the capture of the hill fort of Singhur, the reduction of the fortified village of Sassoon, and the hill forts of Uizaghur and Poorunder. On returning through the pass these operations were followed by the surrender of a number of small fortified places, and then proceeding by Sattarah to the Western Ghauts the division captured the hill fort of Woossottah. It afterwards effected a junction with General Munro's division, and took part in the defeat of the enemy at Sholapoor, and the reduction of the fortress, which surrendered on the 15th May, as well as the operations which effected the capitulation of Nepaunee ; after which it was cantoned at Hoobly, where they suffered very severely from cholera. In September the battalion companies left Bellary for Bangalore, and in the beginning of 1819 the flank companies proceeded to Belgaum, from whence they marched to the siege of the hill fort of Copaul Droog, which was invested on the 10th May, and after an obstinate resistance captured by assault three days afterwards. Returning to Belgaum they remained there until October, when they marched, accompanied by a small native force, against Sanglee, and on its submission they retraced their steps to their old quarters. On the 25th May, 1820, the head quarters and battalion companies left Bangalore *en route* for Madras, where they arrived on the 2nd July, and were joined on the 29th December by the flank companies from Belgaum. During the three years and eight months these companies had been detached from the head quarters, their losses had amounted to one officer and eighty-one rank and file.

We must now turn to take a farewell glance at the gallant 2nd battalion. At the termination of its Peninsular career it proceeded to Ireland, landed at Cork, and from thence marched to Fermoy and Middleton, where it was quartered until November, 1814, when it left those places for Dublin. Here it remained in garrison until September, 1815, when it was suddenly ordered into Tipperary in consequence of the insurrectionary proceedings of the inhabitants of that part of

Ireland, where it remained for about a year and a half. On the establishment of peace in 1815, orders were given for a reduction of the army, and the extra battalions which had been called into existence during the war were disbanded, the 2nd battalion of the 34th sharing this fate in April, 1817, while still serving in Ireland.* It is to commemorate the truly distinguished services of their old 2nd battalion in the Peninsula and the south of France from 1809 to 1814, that the 34th Regiment bears on its regimental colour the words *Albuhera, Arroyo dos Molinos, Vittoria, Pyrennees, Nivelle, Nive, Orthes, and Peninsula*, all of which were granted in acknowledgment of its gallant services during the twelve years of its existence.

Before returning to the 55th Regiment, we may remark that the 34th moved from Madras to Wallajabad in 1821, where it was stationed until January, 1823, when it returned to Madras to prepare for its return home; and after giving five hundred and thirty-seven volunteers to other corps, the regiment, numbering only one hundred and sixteen officers and men, under Lieutenant-Colonel Dickens, embarked, on the 9th March, on board the Hon. East India Company's ship "Coldstream," and sailed for England.

* The colours of the 2nd battalion were afterwards handed over to the 1st battalion, and were by them kept for many years. It was at length decided to preserve them in a glass case, and they were sent for that purpose in 1857 to a tradesman residing in the Opera Colonnade, London; but the establishment was burned down when Her Majesty's Opera House was destroyed by fire, and the charred remains were all the 34th recovered of their old Peninsular colours. These have, however, been preserved, and it is intended to place them in a silver urn as a centrepiece for the officers' mess table.

CHAPTER VI.

In the year 1800, soon after the arrival of the regiment from Holland, the 55th were moved to Guernsey, where, on the 4th June in the following year, it received new colours, an event rendered necessary by the union of Great Britain and Ireland on the previous 1st January. It was afterwards moved to Lewes in Sussex, and early in 1802 placed under orders for the West Indies, embarking at Portsmouth on the 17th March, and landing at Jamaica on the 5th May. On this island they were destined to remain nearly ten years, a period embracing in its occurrences some of the most brilliant victories ever achieved by the British army, but in which it was not the good fortune of the 55th to participate; but that West Indian service, though not reckoned so honourable, was quite as dangerous as Peninsula service, the enormous waste of life noticed in previous chapters will fully testify; and during their present stay in Jamaica the 55th was no exception to the ordinary rule. Only twice during this period did they change quarters. On arrival, in 1802, they were sent to Maroon Town; in August, 1804, they were moved to Up Park Camp; and in December, 1809, to Spanish Town.

In this latter year the monotony of their situation was somewhat relieved by their being called upon to share in an expedition to the island of St. Domingo, where a remnant of a French force was cooped up by the Spaniards, but who were not strong enough to effect the reduction of the capital, of which the French held possession. As England had espoused the cause of Spain in Europe, it was deemed necessary to succour them in St. Domingo also; consequently, on the 7th June, Major-General Hugh Carmichael sailed from Kingston harbour with two thousand men, consisting of the 18th, 54th, and 2nd West India Regiments, and the flank companies of the 55th and the 6th battalion of the 60th Regiments, together with two divisions of artillery, and landing on the island thirty miles from the capital, marched to join the Spaniards, who

still blockaded the city. The French General, Barquier, on the arrival of the British, proposed an armistice, which was met by a demand for the surrender of the city without bloodshed, and this not being complied with, preparations were made for an assault; but on the 6th July, when the troops were got under arms for that purpose, Barquier's heart failed him, and he surrendered, one thousand two hundred French troops laying down their arms. The enterprise was thus accomplished without the loss of a man, and the expedition returned to Jamaica, the flank companies of the 55th rejoining their head-quarters at Up Park Camp on the 22nd August.

On the 25th December the establishment was reduced from seven hundred and ten to three hundred and seventy privates, probably to accord with its diminished strength, and it was apparently a preliminary step towards bringing home the regiment, as in 1810 four of its companies were nominally transferred to the dépôt at Carlisle, the men being distributed amongst the other six. In August, 1811, two more companies were ordered to England. These, comprising the head-quarters, numbered only four officers (with the colours and staff serjeants), one serjeant, three corporals, two drummers, and fourteen privates, and landing at Portsmouth on the 6th May, 1812, they marched for Carlisle, and joined the other four companies on the 5th July. There were now left in Jamaica four companies, under Major Frederick, consisting of sixteen officers, twelve serjeants, eight drummers, and one hundred and ninety-seven rank and file, the latter of whom it seems were expected, by considerably dying off-hand, to save the country the expense of bringing them home, as after a further service of two years, the surviving privates, with a few non-commissioned officers who were fit for further duty, were formed into one company under Captain Hall, who was the Military Secretary at the station, and retained for a further period on the island; while the officers, serjeants, and drummers, returned to England and joined the head-quarters then at Windsor.

From Carlisle the 55th proceeded, in October, 1812, to North Shields, where it embarked for Deptford, and on arrival at that place, on 3rd December, sent a detachment of one hundred men to do duty at the Tower of London. The regiment, however, did not land until the 7th December, when they marched for Chatham, from whence, on the 1st January, 1813, they proceeded to Canterbury. After a short stay at

this station, they, on the 20th April, left for Colchester, from whence, on the 2nd July, they marched for Windsor.

The war still raged on the Continent, but the allies had been so successful, that they had not only beaten back Napoleon's armies, but were now about to invade France; and the British Government, in order to help a little in that direction, diverted the greater portion of the reinforcements intended for Wellington, who had already entered France from Spain, and sent an army of six thousand men, under General Sir Thomas Graham, to drive the French out of Holland. The 55th having been selected to form part of the force, marched from Windsor on the 23rd November, and embarked the next day at Greenwich for Harwich, which town they reached on the 29th. At this place and Yarmouth the expedition was assembling, and Major-General Gibbs having sailed with his contingent from the latter station early in December, the troops at Harwich began to move shortly afterwards. The 55th, under Lieutenant-Colonel Frederick, embarked on the 18th, with the 25th and 83rd Regiments and the 1st Royal Veteran battalion, and disembarked at Williamstadt on the 26th December. The regiment was still very weak in numbers, its strength being twenty-eight officers, eighteen serjeants, nine drummers, and three hundred and fifty-three rank and file. A depôt was however left in England, consisting of three officers and sixteen serjeants and corporals, to carry on recruiting, and this was afterwards joined by the remains of Captain Hall's company from Jamaica, and such of these as were fit for the service were, together with a strong draft of recruits, sent to the regiment in Holland in the following February.

Soon after the landing of the expedition, Sir Thomas Graham effected a junction with the Prussian General Bulow, and the two commanders determined to attack Antwerp, which was still garrisoned by fifteen thousand French troops, and by the 2nd February, all their outposts having been driven in, the town was regularly invested. The batteries were opened on the following day, but after a bombardment of three days' duration Bulow was unfortunately called away to join the Grand Army, and Graham being too weak—although he had just received a reinforcement of three thousand men—to maintain even a blockade, raised the siege and withdrew to his former cantonments between Antwerp and Bergen-op-Zoom. After a month's inaction, of which everyone began to grow weary, Sir Thomas

determined to try and effect the capture of the exceedingly strong fortress of Bergen-op-Zoom.

The fortifications of this town, which were considered almost impregnable, had been raised by the celebrated Dutch engineer Coehorn, and were so extensive that it required twelve thousand troops to man them properly ; but at this time the garrison consisted of less than three thousand men, and this circumstance was the only thing which favoured the British in effecting its capture. For this object Sir Thomas, on the evening of the 8th March, 1814, formed four thousand of his troops into four columns, as under :—

- 1st, under Colonel Lord Proby—Brigade of Guards, one thousand men ;
- 2nd, under Lieutenant-Colonel Morrice, 69th Foot—33rd, 55th, and 2nd battalion 69th Regiments, one thousand two hundred men ;
- 3rd, under Lieutenant Colonel Henry, 21st Foot—Detachment 2nd battalion 21st, and the 87th and 91st Regiments, six hundred and fifty men ;
- 4th, under Lieutenant Colonel Carleton, 44th Foot—4th battalion 1st Royal Regiment, flank companies of the 2nd battalions of the 21st and 37th Regiments, and the 44th Regiment, eleven hundred men.

These columns were to attack the four gates of the town ; but the 3rd, under Colonel Henry, was intended only as a feint, whose attack was to occupy the attention of the garrison while the British entered on the other sides. The right attack, consisting of the 3rd and 4th columns, was directed by Major-General Skerret, with Brigadier-General Gore as second in command, while the 1st and 2nd columns formed the left attack, under Major-General Cooke.

About ten o'clock that night the garrison was aroused by a sharp musketry fire at the Steenberg Gate. This proceeded from Colonel Henry's column, which was discovered from the ramparts as they were endeavouring by main strength to burst open the gate, after having surprised the guard in the lunette ; they were, however, repulsed with great loss by the defenders, who had hastened to the spot. About this time Carleton's column, marching up the bed of the river Zoom at low water, entered the mouth of the harbour unobserved, and at a quarter before eleven it had reached the rampart without the loss of a

man, and had seized and forced open the Waterport Gate. Leaving the Royals to keep open the communication, General Skerret, with the left wing of the 44th, proceeded along the rampart to the left, while Colonel Carleton took the right wing and patrolled the rampart to the right. But the alarm had been given, and the French Governor, Bizanet, having repulsed Colonel Henry, arrived just in time to give his attention to General Skerret, who had almost reached the Steenberg Gate; but after a severe conflict Skerret was forced to retire upon his main body, and to his astonishment he found when he reached the river that the tide had risen so high that it was quite unfordable, and there being no means of crossing it, he had to take shelter in a bastion, where, for the present, he kept the enemy at bay. The night was pitch dark, else they might have discovered the existence of a small wooden bridge, not very far from them, which would have enabled them to rejoin the column; but as Bizanet saw they were caught, as it were, in a trap, he left a sufficient force to hold them in check, and looked round for the other columns of the British. Carleton had pursued his way to the right quite past the Antwerp and Breda Gates; but just as he passed the latter he came upon a considerable body of French, who had also returned from the repulse of Henry's column, and his small force was beaten back with a heavy loss; but General Gore having come up with the flank companies of the 21st and 37th, the whole took post in the centre bastion between the two gates.

At this moment the 2nd column, under Colonel Morrice, made its attack, and off went the French to repel it, leaving, as before, a sufficient force to hold Gore's party in check. Morrice's column had made its way across the ice undiscovered, but on attempting to lower themselves down the counterscarp, the men were met by so terrific a fire that it seemed as if their destruction was inevitable. Nothing daunted, however, they descended into the ditch, but on rearing their ladders against the scarp found them, to their intense astonishment and disappointment, to be too short; and after several gallant attempts to gain an entrance had failed, and the column had lost in killed and wounded two hundred officers and men, including its leader, they were ordered to withdraw from the ditch and reform on the glacis. The column, now led by Major Muttlebury, of the 69th, marched round the foot of the glacis in hope to find a more vulnerable point of attack, leaving the left

wing of the 55th, under Brevet-Major Jones, to remove the wounded.

In the meantime the Guards, under Lord Proby, had moved to their attacking point; but finding the ice on the broad ditch would not bear their weight, moved off to their left, and rearing their ladders against the Orange bastion, mounted the rampart at half-past eleven o'clock almost unnoticed. Finding all quiet, General Cooke, who accompanied this column, concluded the others had not yet attacked; he, therefore, sent patrols to his right and left to gain intelligence. The party which proceeded to the right soon came upon General Gore, and the conjoined force now turned their attention to a body of French who were advancing upon them from the street. These they repulsed, and captured a field-piece; but the enemy's reserves came up, and after a most bloody combat, in which General Gore and Colonels Carleton and Clifton were killed, they were overpowered and had to surrender. Receiving no intelligence from the right, Cooke sent a second party, under Colonel Rooke; but this was beaten back with heavy loss.

Shortly after this the 2nd column, under Major Muttlebury, having discovered the ladders left by Lord Proby, eagerly mounted them, and formed on the ramparts on the left of the Guards. The whole three columns had now gained an entrance, but their detached state prevented that co-operation which was requisite to ensure success; this, however, was not known to those who were outside, who deemed the place taken, and consequently Colonel Henry retired with his party to their quarters, and a brigade of Germans, who had advanced from Tholen on hearing the firing, also turned about and marched home. The detachments Cooke sent to his right and left fared no better than did those sent out by the other columns; one by one, as they went off to support the others, was either repulsed or captured; and the General finding his strength diminishing very materially, determined to retain Muttlebury's column, and to hold his ground until reinforcements should arrive, or daylight reveal the strength and position of the garrison.

But the morning found matters essentially changed. The night had been so intensely cold that the assailants had become quite benumbed while waiting in the same positions for so many hours, and their ardour had become chilled under

the influence of cold and suspense. With the garrison it had been different. They had retired to the "Place of Arms" in the centre of the town, expecting to have to surrender in the morning; but finding all quiet they recovered from their surprise, and began to feel their way about the town in order to discover the position of their assailants. With their knowledge of the town, it is not to be wondered at that they soon discovered their small numbers and isolated positions; they, therefore, took courage, and determined to fall upon them one by one, taking the initiative by commencing at six o'clock in the morning an attack upon General Skerret, who had barricaded himself in a bastion near the mouth of the harbour. He defended himself with the greatest gallantry, but as their force was so overwhelming he was compelled to surrender. They now crossed the wooden bridge, and fell upon the Royals and drove them through the gateway, when being under view of the whole front, they decided to withdraw; but taking by mistake the road which communicated with a strong detached fort, in which were sixty men, who immediately opened fire upon them, they were now between two fires (the French having turned upon them the guns of the bastions), and they also were forced to surrender. General Cooke, on hearing the firing on his left, had sent the 33rd Regiment to assist in the fight; but they seeing, on reaching the gate, that the Royals were prisoners, and the French were preparing to attack them, mounted the rampart, descended the slope, and quitted the place.

There now remained only about one thousand men with Cooke in the Orange bastion, and Bizanet soon concerted measures to dispose of them. Dividing his whole force into three parties he sent two along the ramparts from opposite directions, while with the third he attacked them in front. The conflict was hot and long. At length, however, the enemy on the left was driven back with great loss by the 55th and 69th Regiments; but this temporary advantage was rendered a nullity by the success of their column in the front, who having cleared the adjacent houses of the British had brought up some field-pieces wherewith to finish them. Cooke now saw that all hope had vanished of being able to maintain his position, and, therefore, resolved to withdraw his men by the ladders, which were still reared against the bastion. He, therefore, directed the Guards to retire, which they com-

menced to do with the greatest coolness and regularity, covered by the 55th and 69th, who kept in check the enemy in their front; but during this movement the enemy discovered the Guards descending the ladders, and opened a fire of grape from the various points which flanked the wall against which the ladders were reared; however, the 55th and 69th in a gallant charge dislodged them with the bayonet, and the retreat was continued. But the whole French force had now closed in upon these two weak battalions, the guns were remanned and reopened their fire upon the ladders, and now came a summons from General Bizanet to surrender. This was accompanied by an officer who had been made prisoner during the night, and from whom Cooke learned the true state of affairs, and feeling it useless to continue the struggle against such fearful odds, gave the order to both regiments to cease firing, and surrendered himself and the remnant of his force prisoners of war.

There were not at this time many remaining in the right wing of the 55th, but those few though beaten were not disgraced, and the idea of handing over to the French the colours they had so often carried to victory was very far from their thoughts; they therefore stripped them from the staves (which were broken and thrown over a wall) and wrapped them round the bodies of the two officers who carried them, Ensign Goodall having the king's colour, and Ensign Ring, who was severely wounded, the regimental colour, who successfully concealed their precious burdens, and, on being released, brought them out to the regiment to be in after years deposited in the parish church of the regimental county town, as a memorial of the Divine Providence in saving the 55th the disgrace of losing their colours to an enemy.

The loss of the British in this unfortunate enterprise was three hundred killed and one thousand eight hundred prisoners, of whom six hundred were wounded, while that of the French amounted to only one hundred and sixty killed and four hundred wounded. The loss of the 55th has not been ascertained. The left wing had been left to remove the wounded on the failure of Colonel Morrice's attack, and in the sanguinary struggle which took place before the column retired, the 55th must have had a fair share of killed and wounded. The remains of the right wing, as before stated, surrendered prisoners of war, and no doubt many of them were wounded,

but the number is unknown, except that it contained eight out of the thirteen officers who gave up their swords, one of whom shortly afterwards died of his wounds.

It is not within the scope of this work to discuss the causes of the failure of the enterprise, and about which the highest authorities appear to differ in their opinions. It is sufficient to note that Graham's act of storming one of the strongest fortresses in the world with a force of no greater strength than the garrison, without any approaches, and when the governor had been warned of his intention, stands without a parallel in military history, and the encomium passed upon it by one of the greatest military writers of our age, "that it was the very quintessence of pluck and deserved the success which it very nearly obtained," must be fully indorsed by every one who reads the narrative.

On the following day negotiations were opened between the commanders, and an agreement was made whereby the British were released on condition of not serving against the French until exchanged. The troops, except the wounded, were at once marched out of Bergen-op-Zoom to await embarkation for England. Some of the battalions sailed for home shortly afterwards, but the 55th continued with the army, and when the war was brought to a close by the abdication of the Emperor Napoleon, the regiment formed part of the force which took possession of Antwerp under the convention of the 23rd April, which provided for the evacuation by the French of all the fortresses in their possession beyond the confines of old France. The troops under Major-General Cooke marched into Antwerp on the 5th May: and here the 55th remained until the end of the month, when they marched for Williamstadt, embarked for England on the 2nd June, and landed at Harwich on the 4th of that month, where they remained stationed for the present.

In March, 1815, the astounding news reached England that Napoleon, quitting his island kingdom of Elba, had landed in France, and, marching to Paris, had reoccupied the throne hurriedly vacated by Louis XVIII. At once all Europe, who had been busily occupied with the Congress of Vienna, flew to arms, and measures were at once concerted for the overthrow of the disturber of the peace. The Duke of Wellington was appointed to command the allied armies, and on the 18th June he annihilated Napoleon's power and army on the field of Waterloo. With these occurrences, however, we have nothing

to do, as neither the 34th nor 55th had the good fortune to take a part in them. They were nevertheless fully occupied during these excited times, and the 55th were kept marching and countermarching about the country as if the authorities did not know what to do with them. On the 9th April they marched from Harwich for London, whither they arrived on the 14th, and took up quarters in the Tower, but on the 28th took their departure for Chelmsford, leaving behind them one captain, ten subalterns, four staff officers, seven serjeants, fifteen drummers, and one hundred and nine rank and file. On the 18th June the regiment marched to Colchester, where it arrived on the 20th, but six days afterwards it countermarched, and on the 30th re-entered London. On the 14th August it proceeded to Brighton, from which it again marched on the 30th January, 1816, and entered Bristol on the 9th February, where they were settled for some time. After a great many more moves, of which it becomes tedious to read, the 55th embarked for Ireland on the 10th November, 1820, and were quartered in Dublin. They performed in the North some more of the pedestrian excursions to which they were so well inured, and early in October, 1821, returned to Dublin, embarked for Liverpool, and on arrival marched for Chatham, where they took up their quarters on the 30th of that month. They were now under orders to proceed to the Cape of Good Hope, and on the 3rd and 8th December embarked at Gravesend, in two divisions; for that colony, which, after a fair voyage, they reached in February and March, 1822, and were quartered in Cape Town, where they remained during the next five years, and until September, 1827.

The 34th, after an absence of upwards of twenty-three years, arrived in the Thames from India early in July, 1823, and landing at Gravesend, marched to Chatham, where it was joined by the dépôt from Portsmouth. It was not suffered to remain here long, and in December it moved to Windsor, where it remained two months, when it marched to Portsmouth, and in May, 1824, embarked for service in Ireland. Landing at Dublin, it marched to Enniskillen, and sent out five detachments, after which its different moves may be briefly summed up as follows. In the summer of 1825 the head-quarters moved to Boyle, in August to Longford, and in October to Athlone. In May, 1826, it returned to Dublin, where it remained twelve months, when the head-quarters were removed

to Templemore, and in September, 1827, to Galway. In the following April the regiment marched for Buttevant, and in July for Cork, where it remained until August, 1829, when it embarked in two divisions for North America. Thus out of six years' home service, which had been immediately preceded by twenty-three years in foreign lands, the 34th, although an English regiment, had spent only ten months in England. In October the regiment landed at Halifax, in Nova Scotia, in which colony they remained until August, 1832, when they were removed to New Brunswick; but in July, 1835, they returned to Halifax. In January, 1838, the 34th were moved into Canada to assist in quelling the Canadian rebellion; but they were not actively engaged, although they remained there until June, 1841.

Two or three circumstances connected with the 34th Regiment during this period deserve to be here mentioned. Two great boons which the British soldier now enjoys are claimed by the 34th as having been the first regiment to introduce them into the service. One of these, his evening meal, was unknown in the army until their Lieutenant-Colonel (now Sir Richard Airey, G.C.B.) originated it in his regiment. From their dinner at one o'clock until their breakfast at eight o'clock the next morning, the soldiers had to endure a fast of nineteen hours, and this Colonel Airey felt must be injurious to the health and strength of his men. He, therefore, established the evening meal, but the innovation met with the greatest opposition from the local authorities, although, on the question being referred home, it was sanctioned by Lord Hill, the Commander-in-Chief, and from a regimental custom it afterwards became an institution in the whole service. Colonel Airey also instituted in his regiment, while stationed at Amherstberg, a very isolated position on the frontiers of Western Canada, the first regimental canteen, which has since been also adopted by all the regiments in the service.

It would appear that the red and white tuft which has been worn by the 34th to commemorate the gallant conduct of their second battalion at Arroyo dos Molinos, had been discontinued in the regiment, as, on 23rd May, 1836, His Majesty King William IV was graciously pleased to approve of the battalion companies *resuming* the red and white tuft which they had worn in remembrance of the achievements of the 28th October, 1811.

CHAPTER VII.

The 55th, whom we left at Cape Town, were in September, 1827, removed to Graham's Town. The Kaffirs had for some time past been very troublesome on the frontiers of the colony ; and early in 1828 a horde of them, under their chiefs Charka and Mantuaria, attacked the Tambookies, a friendly tribe, in order to dispossess them of their cattle and country. A force was immediately collected to repel and punish them, and in June the 55th marched to Fort Beaufort, three days march from Graham's Town, where the expedition was assembling. This consisted of a detachment of the Royal Artillery, under Major Storey ; the 55th Regiment, under Lieutenant-Colonel Mill ; the Cape Mounted Riflemen, under Captain Aitchison ; the Dutch Boors, under Field-Cornet Hetman ; and a party of Hottentots, under Lieutenant Sinclair of the 55th, the whole being commanded by Colonel Henry Somerset, Commandant of Kaffraria. All preparations being at length ready, the force marched from Fort Beaufort on the 25th July, and penetrating into the interior, across the rivers Chumie, Keiskama, Buffalo, Goonobies, Kie, and Bashie, arrived on the 27th August on the banks of the Umtata, where the Kaffirs, who had exerted all their skill to elude their pursuers, were assembled in great force. Here, however, they seemed determined to make a stand ; and on the following morning at daybreak they were attacked by Colonel Somerset, and after a severe action, which lasted until noon, they were defeated with great slaughter, and leaving behind them many women and children and much cattle, they retreated. Having thoroughly dispersed them and done all the damage they could, the expedition returned to their respective stations, the 55th reaching Graham's Town on the 14th September.

In May, 1830, the regiment returned to Cape Town to prepare for service in India, and in the following August embarked in four divisions for Madras, where they all arrived in safety during the month of October, and found awaiting

their arrival three companies from the depôt in England, which was now reduced from four companies to one. On disembarking, the 55th formed the garrison of Fort St. George; but in October, 1831, it marched for Bellary, where it remained five years.

In February, 1834, the regiment was called upon to furnish its quota for the army about to commence operations against the Rajah of Coorg. This prince had given such vent to his feelings of animosity against the Indian Government that at last he broke out into open hostility; the Governor-General, therefore, regarding him as a public enemy, deposed him from his rank of Rajah, and sent a force of seven thousand men, under Brigadier-General Lindsay, to take possession of his territories. This force was composed of three divisions, each divided into a main and an auxiliary column, which were to enter Coorg in as many different directions and meet at the capital. The 55th received orders on the 24th February to join the northern division; and on the 10th March five companies, made up to three hundred rank and file, under the command of Lieutenant-Colonel Mill, marched from Bellary, together with the 31st Madras Native Infantry, and some guns of the European Foot Artillery, and on the 30th reached, by forced marches, Kenchumah Oas Cottah, just outside the enemy's country, where the division had assembled. The northern main column was now composed of five companies of her Majesty's 55th Regiment, the 9th and 31st Regiments Madras Native Infantry, the rifle company of the 24th Regiment Madras Native Infantry, two hundred sappers, and a detachment of artillery with two guns, the whole under the command of Colonel Gilbert Waugh, of the Hon. East India Company's service.

On the 1st April the column entered the Coorg territory, the 55th acting as the advanced guard. The difficulties in the way of the troops were very numerous. The country through which they marched, besides being very mountainous and covered with thick forests, was intersected by artificial ramparts (which must have been of great age, as they were in many places crowned by enormous trees), from fifteen to twenty-five feet in height, with ditches before them about ten feet deep and eight feet wide, which in many places were not only double or triple but even quadruple, and to increase their difficulties the roads were blocked up with large trees which

had been cut down and laid across them. The column soon received intimation that their advance would not be altogether unopposed, for at about eleven o'clock the covering party, consisting of fifteen men of the 55th, under Lieutenant C. B. Daubeney, were attacked by the enemy from a village on the left, who were not repulsed until supports were brought up by Colonel Mill, when they fled, leaving six or seven of their number dead on the field, with a loss to the 55th of one man wounded. This was but a foretaste of the work in hand for them.

The next day the column resumed its march, but was soon attacked by the Coorgs, who spared no effort to retard its progress, and who made three vigorous attempts to cut off the baggage and ammunition. At two o'clock it came up to the strong stockade of Kissenhully, on the top of a steep ascent, where Kongal Naik, one of the refractory Poligars, was in command. A party of Native troops were immediately sent to attack it in flank; but the density of the jungle caused a failure, whereupon Captains Warren and McLean, with a party of the 55th, rushed up the hill and carried it by assault, with a loss of one officer and thirteen men wounded. The enemy then fell back to a more defensible position.

At daybreak on the 3rd the march was again resumed, and after a little skirmishing through the dense forest the advance guard, which consisted of eighty men of the 55th under Captain Batty, sixty men each of the 9th and 31st Native Infantry, and a party of sappers, the whole being under the command of Major Bird, 31st Native Infantry, arrived about noon in front of the strongly fortified position of Soamwar Pettah. The works consisted of a high rampart loopholed for musketry, with a stockade or blockhouse strongly built of stone behind it. On the rampart were mounted three guns and several gingalls or wall pieces; it had a deep ditch in its front, before which was an impenetrable bamboo fence following the slope of the hill, and its immediate front was cleared as a sort of glacis. The approach, which was by a narrow defile, ran for some distance in a direction parallel to the front of the rampart, but below its level, through a dense forest jungle with the path obstructed by felled trees, which also served to mask the side works, and prevented a full view of the position. The advance guard, breaking into two parties, commenced the attack by moving to the right and left, in order to penetrate to the rear of the

stockade, and take the position in reverse ; but after toiling with great labour through the jungle the two parties, either from having missed their way or the treachery of the guides, joined together sooner than was intended, and met at a short distance in front of the stockade. Major Bird formed up both parties, and rushed to the assault ; but the enemy poured so murderous a fire upon them, at a distance of about thirty yards, both from the works and the jungle in which they were thickly posted, that despite all their efforts they were forced to retire. A reinforcement of one hundred men of the 55th, under Captain Warren, was now sent to their aid, supplemented shortly afterwards by the remainder of the regiment under Colonel Mill, who now took command of the whole. The troops, headed by the gallant colonel, again advanced, and endeavoured to escalate the work ; the engagement became hot and desperate, Mill's fearless example inspiring the men to deeds of heroism. On the left Lieutenant De Warren, with ten privates, made a desperate attempt to rear a ladder against the wall ; but they were unsuccessful, and with the exception of the lieutenant and one private all were either killed or severely wounded. For four hours did the men persevere in their attempts, though exposed to a tremendous fire ; but all their efforts were unavailing, and at the end of that time, when Colonel Mill had fallen mortally wounded, and their ammunition was all expended, at the command of Major Bird they fell back upon the column, leaving over thirty dead in front of the stockade. They had done all that men could do, and were yet unsuccessful. The retreat of the column, covered by one hundred and fifty men of the 55th, under Captain Warren, was conducted in good order to its former encamping ground, three miles distant, without any loss of stores or baggage, notwithstanding an incessant fire from the Coorgs, who sallied out in pursuit, and followed for some distance, despatching with their large knives such of the wounded or stragglers as they overtook.

In this unfortunate affair two officers and thirty-six men were killed, and six officers and one hundred and twenty men were wounded, making a total loss of one hundred and sixty-four officers and men. It was a sad day's work for the 55th. In addition to their beloved commander, Lieutenant-Colonel Mill, they had three serjeants, one drummer, and twenty-two rank and file killed ; and Captain Warren and Lieutenants

Robertson and Heriot, two serjeants, one drummer, and fifty-one rank and file wounded, of whom three privates afterwards died of their wounds, making a total of eighty-four out of about three hundred and twenty of all ranks engaged.

Of the other five columns, two also failed to force their way through; but the remaining three succeeded, especially the main column of the expedition, commanded by the Brigadier in person, which entered Mercara on the 6th April. The Rajah had fled from the town; but the war was now virtually at an end, and only wanted his surrender to complete it. On the 7th, Colonel Waugh, having sent his wounded to the field hospital at Kenchumah Oas Cottah, recommenced his march, and passing through the stockade, which had been evacuated by the Coorgs on the occupation of Mercara, joined Brigadier Lindsay at the capital on the morning of the 8th.

Two days afterwards the Rajah re-entered the capital, hoping to be reinstated in his position after due submission; but he was doomed to disappointment, and having been detained a prisoner in his palace until the 24th, he was then removed with his family to Bangalore, under an escort of which the 55th formed a part, where they arrived on the 12th May. He was afterwards removed to Benares, where he was permitted to reside, receiving an allowance fitted to support a household suitable to his altered position.

Having rendered up the person of the ex-Rajah to the commanding officer of the station, the 55th marched from Bangalore on the 17th, and on the 4th June arrived at Bellary, and took up their old quarters with the remainder of the regiment. On the 17th October, 1836, the 55th left Bellary for Secunderabad, which they reached on the 23rd November. They remained at this station rather more than three years, during which time they experienced much severe sickness; but early in 1840 the regiment marched in wings for Madras, where they arrived on the 9th and 18th March respectively.

The 55th had now been more than eighteen years on foreign service, and, it appears, expected to return home; but the events now occurring in the "Celestial Empire" prevented their return just yet. In fact, the Emperor of China had, during this very month (March), by publishing a decree ordering a general massacre of all Europeans, declared war not against England only but against the whole civilized

world ; and this, added to the insults and violence which had been offered to the British merchants in the opium trade, determined the Governor-General to send a force to the Chinese seas to protect British interests, a course which was approved by the Home Government, who decided to carry on the war as vigorously as possible. On the 6th October the regiment embarked for Calcutta, where they arrived on the 28th, and proceeded up the river Hoogly to Chinsurah ; but on the 30th December they returned to Calcutta, and relieved the 16th Foot at Fort William. In April, 1841, the 55th had their old flint-lock muskets exchanged for the new percussion muskets, and on the 23rd May they embarked for Hong Kong to join the expedition under Sir Hugh Gough. It may be here noted that the 55th was the only regiment in the Chinese expedition armed with the new musket, the others being still armed with the old flint-locks.

The whole of the regiment, except Lieutenant Hamilton and nineteen men,* arrived at Hong Kong, the appointed rendezvous during July ; and on the 22nd August Sir Hugh sailed for Amoy with a fleet of nine vessels, carrying in all three hundred and twelve guns, and four steamers, under the command of Rear-Admiral Sir William Parker. The land forces consisted of the 18th, 26th, and 55th Regiments, one wing of the 49th Regiment (the other wing was left at Hong Kong), the 37th Madras Rifles, and a proportion of sappers and artillery.

On the 25th the expedition arrived off Amoy, and early on the following morning the Commanders proceeded to reconnoitre the defences of the harbour. These were found to be remarkably strong, the principal batteries alone mounting two hundred and eight heavy guns ; but at one o'clock the fleet weighed anchor, and stood in to its work of destruction. The vessels now engaged the different batteries ; but so well did the Tartars stand to their guns that it was not until four o'clock that their fire was silenced. The troops were then landed, but it was a very slow operation, as the wind had very much increased, and at last the disembarkation of the 55th

* This party did not reach Hong Kong until after the expedition had sailed northwards. Proceeding after them, they were wrecked on the coast of Formosa ; but being providentially saved in the boats, returned to Hong Kong, where they remained.

had (with the exception of one company) to be deferred until the next morning. As the troops formed up on the beach they were led against the enemy; but although they had stood so well behind their stone defences, they seemed not to like very much the idea of confronting British soldiers in the open, and quickly dispersed on their advancing upon them. All the positions were carried before night set in, and the troops bivouacked on the heights between the city and its suburbs. The next morning the remainder of the 55th were disembarked, and on the town being occupied by Sir Hugh, were quartered in one of the public buildings called Hachong, which was commodious enough to accommodate the whole regiment. The spoil taken was very great, and included five hundred pieces of cannon and twenty thousand dollars in sycee silver.

At the expiration of a week the expedition, except a portion of the 26th Regiment who were left in garrison, embarked to proceed northwards, and on the 4th September sailed for Chusan; but violent storms so dispersed the ships that they did not assemble off Chusan until the 25th of that month. This island had been captured from the Chinese in July, 1840; but on the possibility of its effecting a reconciliation, was given up to them on the 23rd February of the following year. It had now to be retaken; but the Chinese, who had received a good hiding at its first capture, seemed determined to make it a tougher job this time. Its defences had been materially added to, especially at the former points of attack, and on the heights outside the town they had a strong intrenched camp, containing about two thousand Tartar and Chinese troops. The land forces to attack the town (Tinghai) were divided into two columns. The right, composed of the 49th Regiment, seamen, and Marines, numbering sixty officers and nine hundred and eighty-six men, under Lieutenant-Colonel Morris, 49th, was to attack the sea defences; while to the left, composed of the 18th and 55th Regiments, the rifle company 37th Madras Native Infantry, and eight guns, numbering fifty-seven officers and one thousand four hundred and thirty-seven men, under Lieutenant-Colonel Craigie, of the 55th, was assigned the intrenched camp.

The troops commenced to disembark under the fire of the guns of the fleet, but in consequence of the extraordinary strength of the currents, the left column was obliged to land

in a very exposed position, under the hill on the right flank of the sea battery, upon which the camp was situated. The two flank and No. 7 companies of the 55th were the first to land, and at once received Sir Hugh's orders to push on without waiting for the others to reach the shore, who were to follow as they disembarked. The "advance" was now sounded, and led by Major Fawcett, they rushed up the heights; the enemy came down to meet them, "the hill apparently blazing with the fire of their gingalls and matchlocks," but the impetuosity of the charge was too much for them, and as the 55th with a ringing cheer closed to within a spear's length of them, they turned about and fled. Pressing on, they had nearly reached the summit of the hill, where the bulk of the enemy was formed up, and pouring upon them a heavy fire, when Ensign Duel, who was carrying the regimental colour, fell dead. Colour-Serjeant Davidson caught the colour as it fell from his grasp, but it was barely in his hand before the spear-head was shot away; in a few moments another ensign arrived and took possession of it, and the whole dashing forward, both colours were soon seen waving over the captured position. During this advance, Lieutenant and Acting-Adjutant Butler distinguished himself by capturing, after a sharp struggle with a Chinese soldier, the only imperial standard taken during the war.* Retreating to a second height behind the one just carried, the enemy made another stand, but the 55th continuing the advance, they again turned, and retreating through the camp, came to a standstill about two hundred yards further on. Colonel Craigie now directed Major Fawcett to halt his party while the remainder of the column came up; and whilst waiting, Captain Campbell, with three companies, was sent to take possession of a position commanding the west gate of the town.

The 18th Regiment had in the meantime landed, and moving to their right, drove in some small parties of the enemy and entered the sea battery. The Chinese, however, rallied and made a good resistance, but the Royal Irish beat them back and soon had possession of Joss-House Hill, which

* This standard was afterwards given by Lieutenant Butler to Captain, now Major-General, Sir H. C. B. Daubeney, K.C.B., who, on the 18th July, 1874, deposited it in Kendal Church over the regimental memorial.

the fire of the ships had compelled the enemy to evacuate. The right column, according to the plan of operations, should have attacked the sea defences, but could not be landed in time, and the 18th having already gained the batteries, the 49th and Marines promptly moved on to their support.

While this had been going on, the remainder of the 55th and the Madras Rifles had come up, and Craigie moved on until he occupied the crest of a height commanding that part of the wall which enclosed the city hill. Scaling ladders having been procured, the two flank and No. 2 companies, under Captain Maclean, rushed forward, covered by the remainder of the regiment, and in a few moments the colours waved on the walls and the town was won! In these operations the 55th had one officer killed, and one drummer and nineteen rank and file wounded (four being reported as dangerous), one of whom shortly afterwards died of his wounds.

The death of Ensign Richard James Duel took place under very singular and melancholy circumstances. That morning he had heard of his promotion from the rank of Serjeant-Major, and with characteristic zeal at once requested permission to carry the regimental colour in the impending attack, although his name had not yet appeared in general orders. This, by the consent of Sir Hugh Gough, he was allowed to do. He landed with the front companies, and proudly bearing his precious burden, was passing over the only clear spot on the surface of the ascent, when he received a shot through his breast and fell, cut off in the fulness of his hopes and in the moment of his earthly reward, after a service of thirty-two years!

The next object of attack was the large city of Ningpo, but as it was necessary first to take Chinhae, which stood at the mouth of the river, the expedition proceeded onwards and anchored off Chinhae on the 9th October. This city was situated on the left bank of the Ningpo river, and was considered so strong by the Chinese that they thought the British, notwithstanding their recent successes, would have no chance of effecting its capture. The attacking force was divided into three columns; the right under Captain Herbert, R.N., consisted of seven hundred and forty-one men; the centre of four hundred and forty men, under Lieutenant-Colonel Morris of the 49th; and the left of one thousand and fifteen, under

Lieutenant-Colonel Craigie of the 55th. As before, an extensive fortified encampment covered the city, but situated on the opposite bank of the river, with which it was connected by two bridges about a mile apart. The key of the position on the city side was a citadel standing on a precipitous rock rising abruptly from the sea, and leaving this to the attention of Captain Herbert's seamen and Marines, Sir Hugh Gough landed at eight a.m. on the 10th with the other two columns to engage the batteries; but, on obtaining a full view of the position, determined at once to attack the encampment. The left column landed first, and the 55th were sent off to the second bridge, with orders to push on as rapidly as possible after crossing and turn the right flank of the enemy's position, while the Royal Irish and the Madras Rifles awaited at the first bridge (which had been barricaded by a wall of solid masonry) the arrival of the centre column. This soon showed itself on the opposite side of the flat, threatening a front attack. The 18th now crossed the bridge under a heavy fire from the enemy at only one hundred and fifty yards distance, and obtained cover under a hill just beyond it. The 55th having by this time appeared at their point of attack, a general advance took place. The Chinese came boldly down to meet the 49th, who under a heavy fire advanced steadily towards them in column; suddenly, however, they deployed into line and returned the fire. The enemy were completely confounded at this, to them, inexplicable increase of force, and in motionless amazement received volley after volley which the 49th thundered into their ranks from every quarter; they then wavered, and, panic stricken, turned about and fled in every direction, leaving the field strewn with their dead and dying. On dashed the 49th in pursuit, and many hand-to-hand encounters took place as the Chinese, rallying, fought with desperation; but their spears had little chance against the British bayonet, and one field-work after another was carried, until at last the 49th planted their colours on the principal redoubt above the sea.

In the meantime the 18th had charged through the centre of the encampment and carried all before them, and the 55th now appearing in their right rear, all retreat appeared cut off. About five hundred of the enemy at once surrendered, but the remainder fled to the river in the hope of escaping to the city, but the fire of the British struck down hundreds, who perished miserably, rather than trust to the mercy of the "black-haired

race." The troops were now reformed and led towards the city; but while they had been busy with the encampment, the fleet had been no less busy with the citadel and sea batteries; but it was not until a quarter-past eleven o'clock that a breach was made and the Chinese observed to waver. The right column was now quickly disembarked, and gallantly mounted the hill to assault the citadel. An explosion at this moment took place inside the gate, the enemy fled, the column rushed in, and the Union Jack which instantly waved above it told that the place was won. Captain Herbert now advanced to the city, but the enemy made no attempt to defend it, and escalading the walls (which were twenty-six feet in height) in two places, he entered it on the one side as the Chinese troops poured out of it on the other. Sir Hugh's force now appeared upon the heights overlooking the city, and leaving a sufficient number on the right bank to destroy the iron guns and other stores, the troops crossed the river during the afternoon, and the 55th were quartered in the city.

Up the river, and only fifteen miles distant, stood the important city of Ningpo. This ranked as the second city in the province of Tche Kiang; its walls were five miles in circumference, and it contained three hundred thousand inhabitants, from which circumstance it was thought a stubborn resistance would be made. It was therefore determined to push on as quickly as possible; but the Chinese had had enough of fighting for the present, and when the troops (of the 55th only the light company was now present), which had started from Chinhae at 8 a.m. on the 13th October, arrived at Ningpo at one o'clock, they found it abandoned by both the military and civil authorities. The gates had however been secured and barricaded, but on a party escalading the walls, the inhabitants assisted them in removing the obstructions and opening the gate, and the force then marched in, headed by the band of the Royal Irish, who enlivened the hearts of the Chinese by playing "Garry Owen."

For the next three or four months the Chinese remained tolerably quiet, consequently the troops had a little rest, and the ships were dispersed along the coast, although the steamers made occasional trips up the river. But during the month of December it became known to the commanders that the Chinese had thrown garrisons into the towns of Yuyuan and Tzekee, distant some twenty and thirty miles up the river, for

the purpose of intimidating the inhabitants and stopping the supplies of the British. It was therefore resolved to dislodge these garrisons, and on the 27th December seven hundred men of all arms, under Major Fawcett of the 55th, who had with him the flank companies of the regiment, accompanied by Sir Hugh Gough, moved up the left branch of the river, and anchored off Yuyuan late in the afternoon. The military landed at once and took possession of a small fort, and on the naval force disembarking the following morning, immediate preparations were made for storming the town. The inhabitants, however, came out and reported that the garrison, two thousand four hundred strong, had abandoned the town during the night, upon which the troops marched in, and the naval brigade moved round the town outside the walls. They had not gone far when they came upon a large body of the enemy, who opened fire upon them; but on the troops appearing through the north gate, they fled, hotly pursued for about seven miles; but their local knowledge enabled them to get clear off, with a loss of only one hundred men. On the 30th, the force, after having thrown open to the public large granaries of corn which were found in the place, evacuated Yuyuan and steamed down to Tzekee, which was likewise found deserted by the Chinese troops and civil authorities. The next day they re-embarked and returned to Ningpo, where they arrived in the evening, having successfully performed the required services, with but one casualty.

At the end of this year (1841) the companies of the 55th were thus distributed: head-quarters and four companies at Chinhae, under Lieutenant-Colonel Craigie; three at Ningpo, under Major Fawcett; one at Chusan, under Captain Coats; and the remaining one and a strong draft of recruits from England at Hong Kong, under Major Warren.

During the month of February, 1842, strong rumours prevailed of a contemplated simultaneous attack by the Chinese upon Ningpo and Chinhae, and at daybreak on the 10th March this project of theirs was put into practice. At Ningpo the attack was made in great force, but at Chinhae it was comparatively feeble. Here they aroused the garrison by endeavouring to force the west gate. The 55th got immediately under arms, and the light company, under Captain C. B. Daubeney, drove them off and followed them for about a mile, when they came upon the main body of the Chinese, nearly one thousand two hundred in number, near a Joss-house,

Having been reinforced by three other companies, Captain Daubeney, nothing daunted by the immense disproportion in numbers, attacked them and put them to flight; but on his again following them, they stopped the pursuit by breaking down the bridges over the numerous canals which intersected the country, and succeeded in getting away, leaving two Mandarins and thirty men dead on the field, but carrying off the greater number of their wounded.

Early in May both these cities were evacuated, and the expedition returned to Chusan, whence it proceeded to Chapoo, another large city at the mouth of the Tseentang river, and the emporium of the Japanese trade with China, before which it appeared on the 17th of that month. As in the previous cases, Chapoo was defended by batteries towards the sea, and field works on the heights outside the city walls, which were defended by at least eight thousand troops, one thousand of whom were Manchoo Tartars. Early on the 18th the ships moved in to engage the batteries, while the British troops landed in a fine sandy bay to the eastward. They were divided into three columns. Colonel Morris commanded the right, consisting of the 18th and 49th Regiments, Colonel Montgomerie led the artillery, sappers, and Madras Rifles in the centre, while the 26th and 55th Regiments formed the left, under Colonel Schoedde of the 55th. The right column landed first, and, occupying a commanding height, covered the disembarkation of the others. When the whole had landed, Colonel Schoedde, with the left column, supported by the artillery under Montgomerie, was sent to move as rapidly as possible round the base of the heights to get between them and the city, and thus cut off the enemy's communications; while the right column, mounting the summit of the heights, attacked the works and Joss-houses as they proceeded. The attack on both flanks commenced at the same moment, while the steamers shelled the works in the centre.

The right column soon carried all before it, while the left prevented the enemy retreating into the city, and the whole of their troops soon became a mass of fugitives, throwing away their arms and flying in every direction. About three hundred Tartars, however, threw themselves into a Joss-house and enclosure, and defended themselves with the greatest obstinacy, so that it was not until after the house had been set on fire by rockets and breached by powder bags, that the

survivors, numbering scarcely fifty men, and they all wounded, could be induced to surrender.

The left column now occupied a height close to and commanding the south-east angle of the city wall, with a canal intervening. The artillery, coming into action with the rifles, covered the advance of the 55th, who were crossing the canal in two large Chinese boats to make the assault. As soon as the grenadiers, under Brevet-Major Maclean, had formed up, together with the sappers, who had the scaling ladders, they rushed forward, and mounting the wall were soon in possession of the town. In this affair the loss of the expedition was much greater than had before been experienced, sixty-three names appearing in the list of the killed and wounded, among the latter being Captain Campbell of the 55th, who shortly afterwards died of his wounds.

On the 27th May, the force having destroyed the batteries and public buildings, re-embarked and sailed for the great Yang-tze-Kiang river, with the intention of going up to the important cities of Tchin-Kiang-Foo and Nankin. The mouth of the river was reached on the 7th June, and on the 13th the expedition entered the Yang-tze-Kiang. Three days afterwards, the batteries having been destroyed, the 55th landed at Woosung, where they remained until the 19th, when they embarked on board the Hon. East India Company's steamer *Nemesis*, and proceeded up to Shanghai, which large city surrendered to the force; and on the 23rd, after having done such damage as was considered necessary, they re-embarked and joined their respective ships off Woosung.

During the month of June considerable reinforcements, accompanied by Major-General Lord Saltoun, had been received by Sir Hugh Gough. The 98th Regiment arrived from England, three native corps, and a detachment of another from Madras, and a regiment composed of volunteers from the Bengal Native Regiments from that Presidency. The expedition now assumed considerable proportions. Colonels Bartlett (49th) and Schoedde (55th) were assigned the local rank of Major-General, and from the 1st July the force was formed into brigades as follows:—

Artillery brigade, under Brigadier Montgomerie, C.B.—one troop Madras Horse Artillery, one and a half companies Royal Foot Artillery, and three companies Madras Artillery;

- 1st or right brigade, under Major-General Lord Saltoun—
Her Majesty's 26th and 98th Regiments, the Bengal Volunteers, and the flank companies 41st Madras Native Infantry;
- 2nd or centre brigade, under Major-General Schoedde—
Her Majesty's 55th Regiment, the 2nd and 6th Madras Native Infantry, and the Rifle companies 36th Madras Native Infantry;
- 3rd or left brigade, under Major-General R. Bartlett—Her Majesty's 18th and 49th Regiments and 14th Madras Native Infantry.

The Sappers and Miners and Engineer department formed a distinct command under Captain Pears of the latter.

It appears that up to this time the Emperor of China had been deceived by the Mandarins who governed the coast towns as to the real consequences of the British attacks; now, however, the war was to be carried on at his very doors, and he would be able to judge for himself whether he or his enemies were likely to get the best of it. It had therefore been determined to effect the capture of Nankin, the imperial city, which stood about one hundred miles up the Yang-tze-Kiang, preceded by that of Tching-Kiang-Foo, a Tartar city famous for its having hitherto withstood the attacks of the pirates who infested those seas. Accordingly on the 8th July, the fleet, reckoning in all seventy sail, commenced to move up the river, and on the 20th anchored off Golden Island, thereby intercepting the course of the Grand Canal from Peking, as well as the communication to Nankin, and opposite Tching-Kiang-Foo, at this time garrisoned by two thousand six hundred Tartars and one thousand four hundred Chinese, with an army of two thousand outside covering the city. A few of the transports unfortunately ran aground, one of which, the *Worcester*, contained No. 6 Company of the 55th, under Captain Young, with whom was also Major Fawcett; and notwithstanding all their efforts, they did not rejoin the regiment until after the city was taken.

On the following day the troops were to land. General Schoedde's task was to occupy two hills commanding the north and east faces of the walls, for the purpose of creating a diversion for the benefit of General Bartlett's brigade, who were to attack the western face, while Lord Saltoun was to

attend to the Tartar army in the field. At four o'clock on the morning of the 21st July the 2nd brigade began to land. The first ashore were the four companies of the 55th, who formed up in front of the north-east angle of the city, under a bluff-hill, from whence they presently moved under the cover of the other hill, but nearer the wall, from which they were now about five hundred yards distant, and awaited the remainder of the brigade. The garrison were at once alarmed, and, spreading along the walls, manned every embrasure and loop-hole, from which they were ready to open fire as soon as the troops left their cover; and, cutting two openings in the rampart, they brought two heavy guns to bear upon the 55th and the native regiments who were advancing to join them. These were all then moved nearer the city, but still under cover. While these movements were going on, General Schoedde, who had received the discretionary power of turning his feint into a real attack, should he see any chance of success, having carefully reconnoitred the position, determined to escalate the wall at the north-east angle and endeavour to force his way into the city. By this time the Tartars had brought seven guns to bear upon the troops, but the artillery, bringing their rockets into play, soon equalized the match.

As soon as all preparations were completed, which was at about 10 a.m., the rifles, under Captain Simpson, advanced to a hollow just below the intended point of attack, and opened fire to cover the assault, and immediately afterwards the storming party, consisting of the sappers with three ladders, the grenadier company of the 55th, and two companies of the 6th Madras Infantry, under the command of Brevet-Major Maclean, 55th Regiment, rushed to the assault, planted their ladders, and ascended the wall under a continued fire of bullets, fire-arrows, stones, and other missiles. Lieutenant Cuddy, who had been ordered to cover the sappers with the right section of the grenadiers, was the first man to mount the wall, and there he remained sitting with the greatest coolness in spite of the shot rattling around him, helping his men to get up. As soon as the grenadiers mounted the wall they divided, one half proceeding, under Major Maclean, to the right, along the northern face, and the other under Lieutenant Cuddy, to the left, along the eastern face.

But the Tartars, although they could not prevent the British entering, did not appear disposed to let them have it

all their own way, and taking up strong positions on the walls, prepared to dispute their further progress. In front of Lieutenant Cuddy there stood a guard-house on the rampart, having an upper storey, in which a large body of Tartars was posted; both storeys were loop-holed, and as the rampart was walled on both sides, they were able to enfilade the advancing party with little danger to themselves. The grenadiers, however, rushed forward, and after an obstinate resistance the Tartars were compelled to retire. Taking possession of this building, Cuddy left a few men in the upper storey, and was pushing forwards when he fell severely wounded.

While this was going on, the main body of the 55th reached the ladders, just as the two companies of the 6th were ascending them. A message was now received by the General that Major Maclean was hard pressed and required support, and then another that Lieutenant Cuddy was wounded; and he finding that the Sepoys were rather slow in mounting the ladders, gave orders for the 55th to go to the support of Major Maclean as soon as the ladders were clear. The Major had met with a guard-house similar to that carried by Cuddy, but situate at a re-entering angle of the wall, and the defence was so obstinate that he could by no means get past it. Several of his men were wounded, and his ammunition was running short; he was therefore glad to see the remaining companies of the 55th come to his assistance. Major Warren, who now took the command, at once saw there was no way to dislodge the enemy but with the bayonet; he therefore led them against the Tartars, who were still firing at them. It now became a regular hand-to-hand fight, the Tartars standing the bayonet well and fighting desperately. Major Warren became personally engaged with two of them, whom he killed, but fell under the blows of a third, who was bayoneted by a man of the 55th in time to save the Major. This part of the rampart and guard-house was now cleared; but to pass the re-entering angle, where the doorway was so narrow that only one man could go through at a time, seemed certain death to all who should attempt it. A private of the regiment, named Kelly, who had already distinguished himself in an encounter with two Tartars, was the first to make the attempt, but he was instantly knocked down and almost cut to pieces, and was pulled back again by the 55th, supposed to be dead. Serjeant Maitland and Corporal Clements, who followed, were also

knocked down and killed outright. An explosion now taking place, the guard-house and doorway were cleared of both parties, but were immediately occupied by the grenadiers, who, with others, forced their way through. Kelly, who had been left on the floor of the guard-house, was, with others, severely burned, and his clothes were on fire, yet he lived for nearly a month afterwards. The Tartars, though in considerable numbers, retired slowly, keeping up however a brisk fire, especially at the colours, which were carried by Lieutenant Frend and Ensign F. S. Daubeney, a sharp fire being also opened upon them from the adjacent windows and tops of houses.

General Schoedde had now sent orders for the 55th to halt and form up at the gate on the north face, and by the time this was done the General himself came up, and then the whole moved on to dispossess the enemy of the western gate. As they proceeded they were assailed by a heavy fire from a guard-house above the inner gate and the adjoining houses and lanes, yet the enemy were so well covered that not a man appeared in sight. They, however, pressed on until at last Lieutenant Heriot, with a party of the grenadiers, rushed from the ramparts into the street below, and close to the inner gate, where a desperate fight ensued, the Tartars defending the gate with the greatest gallantry. From this point to the archway of the west gate the slaughter of the enemy was estimated at two hundred men, who maintained their posts under the deadly fire of the 55th until all were either killed or disabled. The outer gate was found to have been firmly closed with mud and sandbags, piled up to a considerable height, and Lieutenant Heriot was now set to work to remove them in order to open the gate.

Up to this time nothing whatever had been heard of the other brigades, but certain circumstances led the General to conclude that one of them was outside the gate and preparing to blow it open. He therefore withdrew his men, and a few minutes afterwards an explosion took place, which proved to be the blowing in of the gate. The 18th and 49th Regiments now rushed in with Sir Hugh Gough, who was astonished to find the city in possession of General Schoedde's brigade. Lieutenant Heriot and the light company were now ordered to force their way through some houses to a square on the left, and on this being done, Schoedde's brigade was ordered under cover.

We must now return to the party under Lieutenant Cuddy on the eastern wall. At the time of his being wounded the party had just been joined by a company of the 6th Madras Native Infantry, under Captain Reid, who now charged along the rampart and forced back the enemy past the east gate, which they opened to the 26th Regiment. They afterwards penetrated to the south gate, where they remained until the cool of the evening, when they marched round and joined their regiments.

The north gate was now opened, and the Royal Artillery entered with their rockets, as did also the 2nd Madras Native Infantry, which General Schoedde had left outside to keep open the communication. The other brigades were occupied in clearing the town, in which they lost many men. The heat of the day was also so oppressive that numbers succumbed to it, and many died; among the latter were Lieutenant-Colonel Drevor, 6th Madras Native Infantry, and Major Uniacke, Royal Marines, both of whom fell dead from a sunstroke. The streets as they were patrolled presented many painful sights. The Tartar General had, in despair, set fire to his house and perished in the flames, and hundreds of dead men, women, and children lay about, whole families having destroyed themselves rather than live to see their city in the hands of the "barbarians"; while the lower orders of the Chinese spread through the place plundering and carrying off everything they could lay hands upon.

In the obstinate fight, which had lasted from 10 a.m. until 3 p.m., the Tartars lost, in killed alone, forty officers and one thousand men; while victory was purchased by the British at a cost of three officers and thirty-one men killed, and fifteen officers and ninety-one men wounded; of the former, sixteen being deaths by sunstroke. The loss of the 55th was four killed and twenty-five wounded, of whom three afterwards died of their wounds.

Leaving General Schoedde's brigade (except the flank companies of the 2nd and 6th Madras Native Infantry and the rifle company) to hold Tehing-Kiang-Foo, Sir Hugh Gough proceeded up the river, on the 6th August, with the remainder of the force, and anchored off Nankin. On the 10th the flank companies of the 55th, under Major Fawcett, proceeded to join Sir Hugh, who had sent expressly for them to be present at the assault of Nankin, he having been well pleased at their

conduct, not only at Tching-Kiang-Foo, but during the whole of the operations undertaken by the expedition. But the storming of that city had so terrified the Mandarins, and the Emperor was so astonished and confounded at the prowess of our forces, that he sued for peace, and a treaty was signed on the 29th August, by which he agreed to pay an indemnity of twenty-one millions of dollars, to throw open to the British merchants five of his principal ports, and to cede Hong Kong to the British empire, by which means lasting peace and friendship were to exist between the two nations.

On the 23rd September, the 55th embarked to return to Chusan, and by the 23rd October the whole regiment, except No. 4 Company, were here assembled together. On the 18th November, three companies were sent to Hong Kong, where No. 4 was already stationed; and in these two stations the 55th continued to be quartered for the next fifteen months. In May, 1843, the regiment received, through Sir Hugh Gough, the thanks of the Houses of Lords and Commons for its gallant conduct during the late war; and at about the same time a letter was received, dated Horse Guards, 17th January, 1843, conveying authority for the 55th to bear upon their colours and appointments the word "China," with the device of a dragon, to commemorate their distinguished services.

On the 2nd August, the dépôt from Berhampore joined the left wing at Hong Kong. This wing of the regiment experienced about this time a very severe attack of fever, scarcely any one escaping, and the mortality was so great that at the end of the year, out of a total strength of thirteen officers and five hundred and fifteen men, four officers and two hundred and thirty-eight men had succumbed to its ravages, reducing the wing to two hundred and seventy-seven sickly men, with many hopeless cases in hospital. On the 16th February, 1844, orders were received for the return of the regiment to England, and a few days afterwards the right wing embarked for Hong Kong, where it joined the left wing towards the end of the month. Sixty-eight men now volunteered to the 98th Regiment for the purpose of remaining at Hong Kong as police, and the remainder embarked for home in three divisions on the 4th, 8th, and 12th March respectively. The loss to the regiment during its service in China, from 26th August, 1841, to the 6th March, 1844, amounted to six officers, eleven serjeants, thirteen corporals, three drummers,

and four hundred and thirty-one privates, making a total of four hundred and sixty-four deaths, and those principally from disease, in the short space of two years and a half.

Two divisions of the 55th had a fair voyage home, but the third had a very perilous one; however, by the 15th September the whole had landed at Portsmouth, from whence they were marched to Chichester, except one company, which was quartered at Gosport. The effects of their service in Hong Kong still seemed to follow the regiment, for forty-four deaths occurred on the three ships during the voyage, and of those who had to be sent on disembarkation to the General Hospital at Portsmouth, seven also died very shortly afterwards. It deserves to be recorded that, out of the twenty-three officers and five hundred and sixty-eight men who embarked for foreign service in December, 1821, only nine individuals returned with the regiment in 1844, these being Brevet-Lieutenant Colonel Warren, who commanded it on its way home, Quarter-Master Grigg, the drum-major, and six privates.

CHAPTER VIII.

We left the 34th at Montreal, in Canada, from whence, in June, 1841, they were about to return home. Two hundred and sixteen men volunteered for permanent service in North America, and the remainder embarked at Quebec on board the *Cornwall*, sailed on the 20th June, and landed at Gosport on the 22nd July, and were quartered in Forton barracks. In September the regiment moved over to Portsmouth, where it remained until the 13th August, when it received a sudden order to proceed to Weedon in consequence of expected disturbances in the manufacturing districts, from whence detachments were sent out to Newcastle-under-Lyme, Wolverhampton, Stafford, and Birmingham. During the autumn the headquarters were moved to Northampton, and other detachments sent to Burslem, Hanley, Bilston, and Coventry; but on the 4th August, 1843, the entire regiment was collected together at Weedon, from whence, on the 6th October, it proceeded to Liverpool, and the next afternoon embarked for Dublin. Here it remained in garrison until the end of July, 1844, when it moved to Athlone, and where, in August of the following year, it received new colours,* and in September it proceeded to Fermoy. Towards the close of the year the 34th again found themselves under orders for foreign service, and on the 31st October the regiment embarked at Cork for the Mediterranean. During their service in Ireland an alteration in the infantry head-dress gave every regiment a red and white tuft, and thus the 34th lost the distinction they were so proud of; but on the 30th May, 1845, her Majesty the Queen was graciously pleased, upon the recommendation of the Duke of Wellington, to approve of the 34th Regiment bearing upon its regimental

* These colours, and the old ones they replaced, were deposited in Carlisle Cathedral on the 9th October, 1873.

colour the words "Arroyo dos Molinos," "as a compensation for the loss of the distinctive tuft."*

From Chichester the 55th in April, 1845, proceeded to Winchester, from whence, in August and September, it proceeded by wings to Portsmouth, where it embarked for Devonport, at which station the regiment had twelve months' very severe duty. In September, 1846, it moved across to Ireland, and was quartered in Cork. Very troublous times for Ireland were now drawing near; the potato crop failed and caused a famine, and two years afterwards an agitation, got up by Smith O'Brien and some others for the repeal of the Union, ended in open rebellion. It is unnecessary to dwell upon these sad events; the rebellion was speedily crushed, and the country gradually subsided into tranquillity. During these years the 55th had a full share of the harassing duty which fell to the lot of the troops then quartered in Ireland. In October, 1846, the regiment moved from Cork to Buttevant, and during the next month to Limerick, sending out from both of these places a number of detachments. In September, 1847, it marched to Templemore, and in the following March it moved into Dublin, where it remained over two years. In April, 1850, shortly after receiving new colours, the regiment was moved into the Kilkenny district, and was quartered at Waterford, from whence, in the following December, it proceeded to Buttevant to prepare for foreign service. On the 1st February, 1851, it was divided into service and dépôt companies, and on the 25th the service companies embarked at Cork for Gibraltar, where they arrived on the 2nd March.

The 34th had in November, 1845, landed at Corfu, where they remained until March, 1848, when they were removed to Gibraltar. From thence they proceeded in March, 1850, to the West Indies, and were stationed at Barbadoes and Trinidad, where they remained more than three years.

The time was now drawing near when both regiments were to take part in a struggle which stands unparalleled in

* The 34th seem to have been particularly fortunate in their distinctions, for although the words "Arroyo dos Molinos" were given them in lieu of the distinctive tuft, the latter was afterwards revived in the regiment, by their being allowed a tuft with more red in it than the ordinary one, theirs being two-thirds red, whilst those of other corps are only one-third so.

military history. Certain disputes which had occurred in the Holy Land between the followers of the Greek and Latin Churches offered an opportunity to the Czar of Russia of picking a quarrel with the Sublime Porte, and as the dispute grew hotter in the beginning of 1853, a Russian army, in spite of the remonstrances of Turkey, invaded the Sultan's territories, and occupied the principalities of Moldavia and Wallacia. As it was quite evident that Turkey could not cope single-handed with the Czar, and as the presence of Russia in the Turkish capital would be dangerous to the balance of power in Europe, England and France, to the world's astonishment, laid aside their natural animosity and jealousy, and, for the first time in history, united as allies to keep off the foe from Constantinople. After a considerable period had been fruitlessly spent in endeavouring to settle matters amicably, the allies determined to have recourse to force of arms; and on the 28th March, 1854, the official declaration of war was published simultaneously by England and France. The first step was to despatch an army to Gallipoli and Scutari, in the vicinity of the Dardanelles, and from thence to Varna, in order to stop the Russian advance into the Principalities. But as our business is with the services of the 34th and 55th Regiments only, we cannot digress into a history of the whole of the warlike operations which took place during the Russian war.

At this time the 55th were still at Gibraltar, but the 34th were at home, having arrived at Portsmouth from the West Indies on the 9th June, 1853. They had previous to leaving been under orders to proceed to the North American station, but it having been determined to reduce the American garrisons, the destination of the 34th was changed, and the regiment was sent to England and quartered at Chichester.

The 55th being among the first regiments ordered to the seat of war, embarked at Gibraltar, on board the *Medway*, on the 1st May, 1854, under the command of Lieutenant-Colonel Warren, C.B., numbering seventeen officers, thirty-three sergeants, and six hundred and fifty-three rank and file; and on the 16th arrived off Scutari, where they landed five days afterwards, and were posted to the 1st brigade of the 2nd, or "fighting" division, as it was afterwards called. This brigade comprised the 30th, 55th, and 95th Regiments, commanded by Brigadier-General Pennycuik. On the 24th two companies from the dépôt in England, under Major Daubeney, C.B.,

joined the head-quarters, and the regiment now numbered eight companies, with thirty-one officers, thirty-eight serjeants, and eight hundred and forty-six rank and file.

The troops soon commenced to proceed to Varna, in order to operate for the relief of Silistria; the light division sailed on the 29th May, the 1st division on the 13th June, and the 2nd division on the 17th June. On the 25th intelligence was received that the Russians had been forced to raise the siege of Silistria and retire across the Danube, and when this news reached home it was determined to carry the war into the enemy's country, and orders were accordingly sent to Lord Raglan to invade the Crimea and attack the Russian stronghold, Sebastopol. The allied army commenced to embark on the 27th August, and by the 31st they were all on board, the 2nd division being the last to embark. There were now five divisions of infantry in the British army, the fourth having arrived just before the expedition sailed. On the 5th September the armament moved off, on the 9th it anchored off the mouth of the Danube, where it was joined by the French and Turkish ships, and on the 13th, the coast of the Crimea having in the meantime been reconnoitred, the expedition again sailed. It now presented a most magnificent spectacle, four hundred ships, conveying more than sixty thousand men,* extended several miles along the hostile shores. No enemy appeared to oppose their landing, and on the morning of the 14th the disembarkation commenced in the vicinity of Old Fort, and before dark the whole allied army were on shore. The first British troops landed was No. 1 Company of the 23rd Royal Welsh Fusiliers, commanded by Major Lysons. The strength of the 55th on its landing, under Brevet-Colonel C. Warren, C.B., was three field officers, eight captains, ten lieutenants, four ensigns, five staff officers, forty-five serjeants (including staff), eleven drummers, forty-six corporals, and six hundred and twelve privates. Two officers had been left at Varna, and also

* The allied army was composed as follows :—British, under General Lord Raglan, infantry twenty-two thousand three hundred, cavalry one thousand one hundred, artillery three thousand one hundred, engineers three hundred, total twenty-six thousand eight hundred; French, under Marshal St. Arnaud, in all twenty-six thousand five hundred; Turkish infantry, under Suleiman Pasha, seven thousand; making a grand total of sixty thousand three hundred men, with one hundred and thirty-two guns.

one hundred and forty-two men, the greater part of whom were sick, and twenty-one men were unable from the same cause to land with the regiment, and were left on board ship.

The allied army remained on its ground near the place of disembarkation until the morning of the 19th, when it moved forward,* in a southerly direction, towards Sebastopol, the Turks being on the right, next the sea, the French in the centre, and the British on the left or exposed flank. After marching for an hour, a halt took place, during which the allied commanders, accompanied by a numerous and brilliant staff, rode along the front of the columns. "The men spontaneously got up from the ground, and column after column rent the air with three thundering English cheers. It was a good omen. As the Marshal" (St. Arnaud) "passed the 55th Regiment, he exclaimed, 'English, I hope you will fight well to-day!' 'Hope,' exclaimed a voice from the ranks, 'sure you *know* we will!'"† Resuming the march, which was continued until the evening, they reached the river Bulganac, which they crossed, and then halted for the night. In order to be prepared for the enemy, should they again shew themselves (there had been a skirmish between the cavalry and horse artillery directly after crossing the river), the army bivouacked in order of battle, with their backs to the river, and having the 4th British division and the 4th Light Dragoons posted across it to observe the enemy should they endeavour to out-flank them.

At six o'clock on the following morning, the ever memorable 20th of September, the allies recommenced their march, and at about eleven o'clock, on reaching the crest of a slightly undulating eminence, they came in sight of the heights of Alma, distant about two miles. A halt was ordered, whilst the commanders rode to the front and reconnoitred the position. Even at this distance it was seen to be of immense strength, and that the sides of the hills were covered with dark masses of infantry. The plan of attack was soon settled. General Bosquet's division, with the Turks, were to cross the Alma at

* The 63rd and two companies of the 46th Regiments were left, under General Torrens, at the place of disembarkation to keep open the communications with the fleet.

† Dr. Russell,

its mouth, gain the heights, and so turn the Russian left, while the rest of the French and the British forced the river in front of the centre of their position. This was about two miles in extent; every post, whether of artillery or infantry, had been most judiciously selected, and upon the slopes of the hills, which rose in terraces, they had placed three batteries of heavy guns, one of which, consisting of eighteen guns, was posted across the road leading to Sebastopol. The bridge over the Alma had been partially destroyed; but as the river was fordable at this time of the year, this was of little moment. Its banks were steep; and almost to its brink, on the Russian side, there extended vineyards and groves of trees, which afforded excellent cover to their skirmishers, although on the other side all such cover had been cut down by the enemy and removed previous to the attack. The task the troops had now to perform was first of all to force the passage of the river, in the teeth of an enemy prepared to dispute it to the utmost, and then to storm the intrenchments defending it.

After a halt of twenty minutes, the army strode on in all their magnificence. The British advanced in contiguous double columns, covered by skirmishers, the 2nd and light divisions in the first line and the 1st and 3rd in the second line supporting them, while the 4th, with the cavalry, covered the left flank of the allies. The 1st brigade of the 2nd division, consisting of the 30th, 55th, and 95th Regiments, was on the right of the British and touching the left of the French, with the 2nd brigade immediately behind it. It had been arranged that the British were not to attack until the French had outflanked the enemy's left; and to give them time to do so, the British advanced but slowly. Shortly, however, the front line came under range of the enemy's guns, and then the line of columns opened out to deploying distance, and formed one line of battalions, though still in quarter-distance columns.

The first shot had been fired at half-past one o'clock, and soon afterwards Lord Raglan ordered the 2nd and light division commanders to deploy their battalions into line, in which order they advanced under a heavy fire to within three hundred yards of the river, when the whole line was ordered to lie down to await the result of the French attack. One of the first acts of the Russians was to set fire to the village of Bourliouk, which lay right in front of the centre of the 2nd division. The 2nd brigade, consisting of the 41st, 47th, and

49th Regiments, commanded by Brigadier-General Adams, was now on the right of the 1st brigade, under Major-General Pennefather, and right in their front the burning village was situated. The enemy still continued to pour a tremendous fire upon the British from their heavy batteries, their shot ploughing through their ranks and tearing off legs and arms at every round, and causing such heavy loss to the recumbent regiments, that after waiting for twenty minutes, and getting no tidings of the French attack on the right, Lord Raglan became weary of this inactivity and ordered the line to advance. The next moment the men were on their feet moving towards the river, and nearing those terrible batteries which were dealing such destruction amongst them.

Leaving the other divisions for the present, we must follow the fortunes of the 2nd, as it contains the regiment we are particularly noticing. As before stated, this division, which was commanded by Lieutenant-General Sir De Lacy Evans, had in its immediate front the burning village, which impeded its progress towards the river, and beyond that, at a distance of about one thousand four hundred yards, eighteen heavy guns stretched right across the road abreast of which it was toiling, and which led from Eupatoria to Sebastopol. To avoid the village, Evans was forced to separate his force by detaching the 41st and 49th Regiments, under General Adams, to the right of the conflagration, while he retained Pennefather's brigade and the 47th Regiment; but he was still cramped for room, as the light division on his left had not taken ground enough in that direction, and he was consequently obliged to work his way along a crowded front, under a converging fire of artillery and a hail of musketry from the enemy's skirmishers on the opposite bank of the river. This he could accomplish but slowly. The regiments rushed forward to such little shelter as the ground afforded, and waiting for a lull in the firing, would again rush forward and find shelter more in advance. Thus each regiment moved on independently, but keeping as much as possible in the general line. At one time three of the companies of the 95th, which was the left regiment of the brigade (the 30th being on the right and the 55th in the centre), had become separated from the rest of the regiment by these movements and attached themselves to the 55th, but afterwards rejoined them. About the same time, as the 55th were advancing over open ground, so crushing a fire met them

that they were quite staggered; but though the line was broken, it did not fall back, and Colonel Warren soon rallied them and carried them on, but on reaching a spot which afforded some little shelter, he ordered the line to lie down again. The gallant Colonel, however, would not himself dismount, but kept his saddle and remained at his post in the centre of his regiment, watching for the moment when he again could lead it forward. The 55th suffered terribly in this advance; and no wonder, for they were pressing on under a perfect storm of round shot, grape, shell, canister, case shot, and musketry. Brevet-Major Rose and Captain Schaw were killed, Colonel Warren, Major Whipper, Brevet-Major Coats, Lieutenants Bisset and Armstrong, were wounded, and both Major Whipper and Adjutant Warren, had their horses shot under them. The Colonel had a narrow escape, a round shot tearing off one of his epaulettes and slightly grazing his shoulder. Major Rose received his death wound whilst commanding the light companies of the brigade, with which he was skirmishing in advance; and the Adjutant who escaped at this time with the loss of his charger was afterwards wounded by a bayonet when the regiment charged the Russians on the other side of the Alma. By-and-bye the regiment neared the edge of the river, and obtained shelter amongst the low walls of the vineyards, and, although they could get no farther, were now enabled to use their Minnies with good effect upon the enemy, who still crowded the left bank of the river.

The light division at this time had crossed the Alma, and, led by Sir George Brown, had stormed the heights, and at a tremendous cost had actually reached the central battery; but in consequence of their supports not being close enough to hand, were obliged to retire by the reinforcements received by the Russians at this point. The Guards and Highlanders, however, came up, and the battery was taken. But we are anticipating events. The 2nd division had here done some good service; for although they could not advance because of the guns in their front, they were able to clear it pretty well of the enemy's infantry, especially when the light division on their left had had to retire.

At this critical period of the battle the report of an English gun was heard far away among the knolls on the other side of the river, and to the right front. This, which was soon repeated, came from a couple of guns of Turner's battery, which

had accompanied General Adams, and these had been brought into action by Lord Raglan, who, having penetrated far in front, had seen that Evans' advance was barred by the eighteen guns across the road, and that they could be enfiladed from the spot on which he stood. Soon a change was observed by General Evans in the battery before him : the enemy was carrying off the guns, and the road was open to his advance. At once the troops moved forwards. The 47th crossed just below the bridge, in deep water, which caused them some difficulty in crossing ; the 30th, being farther in front, had at once gained the opposite bank, and the 55th were soon across after them.* As the regiment moved up, General Pennefather wished Colonel Warren to form line, which he attempted to do, but the fire of the Russian guns, which had taken up a new position farther to the rear, but still across the road, was so effective, that when two or three groups were formed they were at once struck down by their shot, and the General then allowed the 55th to follow their Colonel as best they could. They instantly crossed, and forming in line under cover of a spur at the foot of the heights, they moved onwards, led in front by General Pennefather.

It now happened that, owing to the temporary repulse of the light division, Evans' three battalions were almost alone on the enemy's ground ; and with the dense masses of Russian infantry in front of him, it seemed doubtful whether he himself would be able to hold his ground until the 3rd division, under Sir Richard England, could come to his support. There was, however, another regiment near him, the 7th Fusiliers, which, not far to his left, was hotly engaged with a column of Russians, one thousand five hundred strong. The 55th being now the left regiment of Pennefather's brigade, was, in order to aid the Fusiliers, directed by Colonel Warren to change their front by wheeling to their left, which manœuvre was accomplished under a heavy fire from the column, and brought their line parallel to its left flank. They now opened fire upon the Russians, and on the column shewing signs of wavering under the stress of the Fusiliers and the 55th, the latter were ordered to cease firing and charge. On they dashed ; but the Russians had already had enough, and soon moved off rapidly

* The 95th Regiment had, from the narrowness of the front, swerved to the left, and become attached to the light division, whose fortune it shared during the remainder of the action.

to the rear. Here Adjutant Warren was wounded by a bayonet as previously noticed. In the meantime Evans had been joined by Adams' two regiments, the 3rd division had pushed on to the right front and taken up a position well in advance, the light division had recovered itself and followed the 1st, which had driven back all before them, the French had succeeded in establishing themselves on the right, the Russians were retreating on all points, and at half-past three o'clock, after a most severe contest of two hours, the field was won! The enemy left behind them on the field three guns, three generals, seven hundred prisoners, and four thousand wounded, and nothing but the want of cavalry on the part of the allies prevented their loss being much greater. The loss of the British in this eventful action was twenty-six officers killed and eighty wounded, three hundred and twenty-seven men killed and one thousand five hundred and thirty-nine wounded, and eighteen men missing (the whole of whom were supposed to have been killed by the falling of houses on the skirts of the burning village), making a total loss of one thousand nine hundred and ninety officers and men. The French loss was stated to have been one thousand four hundred of all ranks, whilst that of the Russians was, in their official account, acknowledged at five thousand seven hundred and nine, but which was believed to have been much greater. The 55th suffered very severely; two officers, one serjeant, and fourteen rank and file were killed, and six officers, five serjeants, and eighty-six rank and file wounded, of whom very many afterwards died of their wounds, making a total loss to the regiment of one hundred and fourteen officers and men.

The Russians were however not the only enemy the allied army met on the Crimea; that dire disease, cholera, which had struck down so many of their numbers at Varna, still followed them, and even in the midst of the battle many a poor fellow drew his last breath untouched by the hail of shot and shell, but succumbing to the fatal pains of cholera.* One man of

* It is stated that an officer following the 2nd division up the heights found a poor fellow dying of cholera. Opening his brandy flask, he offered it to the man, who, thinking it might be used for a better purpose, refused it, saying, "It's too late, Sir; there is no use wasting it on me!"

the 55th died in this manner on the field, and two others on the next day.

The field presented a melancholy spectacle after the battle: two days were occupied in burying the dead and bringing in the wounded, who were removed on board the fleet, and many a touching incident might be narrated of the kindness displayed by the men towards their wounded comrades, and even by one wounded man towards another. One told by a staff officer, in "Letters from Head Quarters," is worth transcribing. Speaking of the scene on the day following the battle, he says, "One man, whose leg was dreadfully shattered with grape shot, and to whom I offered some drink (it was the last drop in the bottle) said, 'Oh, Sir, if you would give it to that chap there! he has been bad all night; he is shot through the chest; may be a drink would make him easier!' I went to the man indicated, and found him hardly conscious; however, he swallowed what I offered him, and gave me a smile of thanks that was worth any amount of trouble to receive. I fear he must soon after have died, as death was stamped on his countenance then. I was anxious to do something for the man who had so generously given up the last drop in my bottle for his dying comrade. I was by this time a mile from headquarters and the river, and it was getting late. I did not know whether I should not be wanted for some duty or other. I could not, therefore, go and get any more drink and return, as it would take up so much time. To my delight, I saw a party of men with stretchers shortly after, and in a few minutes had the satisfaction of seeing my friend being carried to the hospital, where he would get every attention as far as circumstances would admit." On the evening of the 22nd there were still more than seven hundred wounded Russians who could not be moved; and as the allied commanders had decided that the army should march on the morrow, these were left to the care of the Tartars in a neighbouring village, and Dr. Thompson, of the 44th Regiment, nobly volunteered to remain with them.

The next morning the army advanced to the river Katcha, and on the following day to the Belbec, from which the northern forts of Sebastopol were visible, and in the beautiful valley, covered with vineyards and fruit gardens, the troops bivouacked. It was now discovered that to attack Sebastopol from the north side would be quite impracticable, and it was therefore decided to move to the left, pass round the town,

secure a new base of operations by seizing Balaklava, and make the attack on the south side. This, which is known as the famous "flank march," was executed on the 25th, the English leading the way through a dense wood which extended for some miles, and halting about 2 p.m. for a couple of hours at Mackenzie's Farm. Resuming the journey, the troops marched for the Tchernaya (or black) River, and on its banks they bivouacked for the night. The march was long and fatiguing, and the 55th did not reach their halting-place until half-past eleven that night, having been under arms since seven o'clock in the morning. Early next day they were off again, but about noon they took possession of Balaklava, and effected a junction with the fleet. The cholera had still clung to them and many men died during the march. The allied armies now made a change in their positions, and the British, who until now were on the left, took the right, being still on the exposed flank, while the French were protected on both sides.

On the 29th the 55th moved from before Balaklava to the heights of Sebastopol. The 2nd division were posted on the extreme left of the British position, joining the French army, which occupied the remaining ground to the left, as far as Kamiesch Bay, their base of operations; but in consequence of the exposed state of the British right, Sir De Lacy Evans was on the 5th October moved to that part of the line, and took up his position on the Inkerman heights on the extreme right of the allied army; and here the 55th, in common with the rest of the division, were employed in furnishing outlying picquets, which were constantly exposed to the enemy's fire, which at times was very severe. On the 10th, ground was broken before Sebastopol, and on the 17th the first bombardment took place. It had been arranged that early in the morning the British and French batteries should open fire on the enemy's works, supplemented by an attack on the sea defences by the allied fleet; and that, should the bombardment prove successful, an immediate assault should be made by the troops. But although a tremendous fire was kept up by the British throughout the day, the French broke down, and the Russians replied so well, that in the evening no good had resulted from their operations, and it became evident that a long siege was before them. The north side of the town was still open, and consequently the enemy were enabled to receive reinforcements of men and war material without molestation. Their position

was, in fact, more that of an intrenched camp than a besieged town, and having unlimited resources at their command, were able to repair their batteries as fast as they were disabled by the fire of their assailants.

On the 25th October they endeavoured to recover possession of Balaklava, but were repulsed, and on the following day, at about one o'clock, they made an attack upon the position occupied by the 2nd division at Inkerman. The movement was made so rapidly that the picquets (chiefly of the 30th and 49th Regiments) had to engage their skirmishers for some time alone before any supports could be sent to them. Sir De Lacy Evans, however, soon formed up the division in front of its camp with the right under General Adams, and the left under General Pennefather, and with his batteries opened fire on the approaching enemy, as the picquets, who behaved with great determination, fell back before them. As they had brought up four thousand five hundred infantry, with two batteries of artillery and two squadrons of Cossacks, it was evident they thought of outnumbering Evans, who could not muster more than two thousand men, before the other divisions could come to his assistance; but they were greatly disappointed, and while his advanced infantry were keeping theirs in check his eighteen guns poured so destructive a fire upon their artillery that in half an hour they were forced to retire from the field, and the batteries now directing their attention to the Russian columns, already shaken by musketry, soon threw them into confusion, and this turning into flight, they were quickly followed by the British, who literally chased them over the ridges towards the head of the bay, and it was with difficulty they could be recalled from the pursuit. The Russians suffered very severely, having no less than three hundred killed and wounded, and nearly one hundred taken prisoners, whilst Evans lost only twelve killed and seventy-five wounded, of which number the 55th contributed only one man. During the conflict the other divisions turned out, and an offer of assistance from the French was received by Sir De Lacy; but the enemy were already retreating, and he had the honour of beating the Russians unaided.

This affair, known by the name of "Little Inkerman," was but a prelude to that great conflict which was fought on the very same spot only ten days afterwards, and the rapidity

with which the enemy gained the front of the position ought to have opened the eyes of the Commanders to the defenceless state of their right flank. A two-gun battery, at the solicitations of Sir De Lacy, had been made at the edge of the slope overlooking the ruins of Inkerman; but the guns had been removed to meet the pressing wants of the batteries opposite the town.

The 4th of November had been a miserable wet day; all through the night it rained almost incessantly, and on the morning of the 5th the fog was so dense that it was almost impossible to distinguish an object at only a few yards distance. During the night more than one of the picquets had heard the sound of wheels in the valleys below, as if they were approaching the heights; but the officers to whom it was reported took no heed of it, considering it to be merely supplies passing along the Inkerman road to Sebastopol. Little did they think the enemy were getting into position an overwhelming force of artillery, and that large masses of infantry were stealthily approaching the ravines, and creeping up the heights on the exposed flank of the 2nd division, to commence in a few hours that sanguinary struggle which we have accustomed ourselves to call the Battle of Inkerman.

The Russians had planned their attack very cleverly. General Dannenberg, with forty thousand infantry and one hundred and thirty-five guns, divided into two nearly equal columns, was to make the main attack upon the right of the allied position at Inkerman; Prince Gortschakoff, with twenty-two thousand men, was to make demonstrations against General Bosquet's French division covering Balaklava, so as to prevent him sending assistance to the British, and to advance against the allies so soon as Dannenberg had penetrated to a given point in his front, while a strong sortie was to be made against the French works on the extreme left, so that the whole allied force would be kept fully occupied by the movements which the Russians hoped would rid the Crimea of the presence of the invading armies. Dannenberg's two columns, under Generals Soimonoff and Pauloff, were to approach the British position by two different routes; that under the former to penetrate the British line by the Careening Bay Ravine, and so cut off the 2nd division from aid from the left; and that under the latter to cross the river Tchernaya, and to appear on the right of the division,

when having isolated them from the rest of the army they would be able to establish themselves on the high ground in front of the British camp, and be able to construct batteries, which would enfilade the whole allied line, and so compel them to withdraw their troops and raise the siege. But "man proposes and God disposes," and the plan which had been so cleverly devised was not carried out in its integrity.

Early in the morning the British picquets were relieved as usual. One half of those sent on duty were furnished by the 55th, the other half by the 41st, 47th, and 49th Regiments, the whole being commanded by Lieutenant-Colonel Carpenter, of the 41st. The 55th comprised four companies under Captains Marsh and R. Hume, and Lieutenants Barnston and Elton, who took the right of the position, and relieved on Shell Hill a similar party of the 95th Regiment. Shortly before six o'clock General Soimonoff, who had not taken the proper turn after entering the gorge of the Inkerman ravine, arrived with his column at Pauloff's point of attack near Shell Hill, and as he had not yet arrived at once commenced the attack himself. His skirmishers being favoured by the fog and mist succeeded in almost reaching the British sentries before they were discovered; these, however, on seeing the enemy before them, gave the alarm and fell back upon their main bodies. The picquets, who had a good knowledge of the ground, which was covered with thick brushwood often breast-high, at once opened fire in order to hold them in check as long as possible. As soon as the Russians found they were discovered their artillery opened fire from the opposite hills, and in order to distract attention from the real point of attack, Gortschakoff's column moved as if to attack Balaklava. A tremendous cannonade was opened upon the whole line of trenches, which they assaulted on the left, and succeeded in entering and spiked two whole batteries of guns belonging to the French.

The men in camp were just endeavouring to make a breakfast out of the wretched green coffee with which they were furnished, when the alarm was given that the Russians were attacking in force. General Pennefather, now commanding the division in the absence of Sir De Lacy Evans, who was on board ship sick, at once got his men under arms and posted them in front of the camp, whence he could send aid to the closely-pressed picquets. The 1st brigade (Pennefather's

own) was commanded by Colonel Warren of the 55th, the 2nd by Général Adams, who at once proceeded with the 41st and 49th Regiments to the right.

Meanwhile the picquets continued hotly engaged with the enemy, before whom they were compelled to fall back, although it was but slowly; and the 55th, on the extreme right, under Lieutenant Barnston, retreated, fighting desperately, into the two-gun battery, from the embrasures of which they kept up a continued fire upon the advancing masses. The enemy charged to drive them out, but they bravely resisted all their efforts, for they knew the safety of the whole army depended on the picquets keeping them at bay until the division could come into action; but at last they were almost surrounded by a host numbering forty to one, and then those left of that gallant company were compelled to retire, leaving the battery in the hands of the Russians. The enemy's heavy guns which had been posted on Shell Hill, on the ground previously vacated by the picquets, now sent their iron hail dashing into their attenuated ranks, and not a man would have been left of them had not the 41st Regiment come up at this opportune moment, and charging the enemy's columns, after a short but decisive combat recovered the battery. Fresh columns of the Russians, however, came up; again their guns dealt destruction into the British ranks, and once more were they forced to retire before overwhelming numbers. Again the battery was carried by the 20th and 57th Regiments, and again had they to retire after a few moments possession, then the artillery came again into play, for the Russians seemed determined to hold it if possible; but the Guards coming up, charged right into the battery, and recovered it for the last time, for despite all their efforts, which were not in the least relaxed, the enemy could not in this part of the field get beyond that sanguinary spot. The carnage may be imagined from the fact that, after the action, one thousand two hundred dead bodies were found in and around the two-gun battery alone!

While this struggle had been going on, General Pauloff's column had reached the field, and the British 4th and light divisions had also come into action, for Soimonoff, through taking the wrong turn, had not cut off their right as had been planned, and the 2nd division had been, as before stated, posted in the centre of the line in front of their own camp, which the

enemy commenced to shell as soon as the fog cleared sufficiently to bring it into their view. Pennefather, who had been from the first sending portions of his force to feed the picquets fighting in the front, soon had only a few companies of the 47th and 55th remaining with him, who were posted behind a breastwork about a hundred yards in advance of the camp.* The artillery, consisting of six nine-pounder batteries, had also got into position, and although these thirty-six field-pieces were all that could be brought against the Russian guns, twenty-four of which were heavy ordnance, their execution was so admirable that their fire soon told immensely upon the dense columns of the enemy's infantry. The action was general from the two-gun battery on the right to a ravine on the left, a distance of three-quarters of a mile, and on this crowded place a scene had been, and was still being enacted, that almost beggars description. "It was," says Dr. Russell, "a series of dreadful deeds of daring, of sanguinary hand-to-hand fights, of despairing rallies, of desperate assaults—in glens and valleys, in brushwood glades and remote dells, hidden from all human eyes, and from which the conquerors, Russian or British, issued only to engage fresh foes." It has been well termed the soldier's battle, for once engaged in this pell-mell fight, every man was to a great extent his own general, and it is doubtful whether so many personal combats and hand-to-hand encounters ever before took place between the rank and file of the British army and their foes as did this day on the field of Inkerman. For four hours did little more than eight thousand† British troops thus contend with four times their numbers, but at ten o'clock a body of French infantry appeared on the right, which infused new life into our almost exhausted battalions,

* The 55th, who held the left of the position, comprised only two companies, under Lieutenant-Colonel Daubeney, and numbered about one hundred men, two other companies having been sent to reinforce the four fighting in the extreme front.

† Mr. Kinglake says that the strength of the 2nd division was two thousand nine hundred and sixty-six men and twelve guns, and that they were reinforced by five thousand two hundred and ninety-seven men with twenty-four guns, which gives a total number of eight thousand two hundred and sixty-three men and thirty-six guns. The French brought into the field eight thousand nine hundred and nineteen men and twenty-four guns, but only three thousand five hundred and seventy-five men of these were engaged.

and these were followed by others until nearly nine thousand men came on the field.

Just before this, however, the Russians had brought fresh troops into action, and the combat was renewed with greater vigour than ever. A determined effort was now made to break through the centre of the British position. A strong column of Russians, marching straight towards that part of the line defended by Pennefather's small force, threatened to annihilate it. Its advance guard being mistaken for British* by the two companies of the 55th, defending the left of the breastwork, were suffered to approach to within a few yards of the work before the mistake was discovered. The 55th fell back surprised, but being quickly rallied, charged the Russians, and after a furious contest, happily of only a few moments duration, the enemy retired, and they recovered possession of the post they had so easily lost. To repel the great Russian column, which was still advancing and pushing back the small parties of the British fighting out in the open, a French battalion took post in front of the centre of the position and opened fire upon it; but as the latter continued to advance, a panic seized them, they wavered, then broke, and despite all the efforts and remonstrances of their leaders began to fall to the rear. At this critical moment—for the Russians had succeeded in penetrating almost close to the breastwork—Colonel Daubeney, of the 55th, did good service. Taking from his small party about thirty men, he moved off to his right front, and approaching the flank of the column, fell upon its second battalion just as it had begun to deploy into line, and, without firing a shot, tore his way through the ranks from the right to the left. This daring feat, which was not accomplished without much loss, threw the battalion into such disorder that it was at once communicated to the front battalion, at that time advancing upon the tents of the 2nd division, which naturally concluded from the tumult in its rear that its supports had been cut off by a flank attack of the British, and this confusion afforded time for the French to rally, and the Russians fell back before the united rush of the British and French.

Two eighteen-pounder guns, which had been sent for by Lord Raglan, arrived about this time and turned the tide of

* Both British and Russians fought in their great coats.

battle in favour of the British, our nine-pounders, although doing such execution to their heavy masses of infantry, were too light to reply effectively to the Russian heavy artillery, but the new comers were served with such precision that before they had been in action half-an-hour it was seen that they had obtained the superiority, and many of the enemy's guns ceased firing. The battle was, however, continued for some time with varying results; but soon after eleven o'clock it became evident to the enemy that their last chance of victory had disappeared, and at one o'clock their columns began to retire, and gradually drawing off their guns they, at about 2 p.m., withdrew from the field, having been overpowered, according to their official reports, by the superior long-range rifles of the British and the "murderous fire of artillery." Their retreat was conducted in good order and without molestation, for the British could not through exhaustion, and the French, it is stated, would not follow their retreating columns, which, crossing the Tchernaya by a single bridge, left the field to the victorious allies. But the victors were in no mood for rejoicing, for their losses in this day's work had been truly appalling. Of the British nine generals alone had been killed or wounded, and the total loss was found to be forty-three officers, thirty-two serjeants, and three hundred and eighty-seven rank and file killed; one hundred and three officers, one hundred and twenty-two serjeants, and one thousand seven hundred and twenty-seven rank and file wounded, of whom a great number afterwards died; and one officer, six serjeants, and one hundred and ninety-one rank and file were missing; so that the total of two thousand six hundred and twelve represented the British share of the day's casualties. The French are stated to have lost altogether in killed, wounded, and missing, one thousand seven hundred and twenty-six officers and men, while the Russian loss was estimated at fourteen thousand, but all these numbers include the casualties in the trenches*; where the French especially lost a considerable number in repelling the Russian sortie.

The loss of the 55th, though not so large in numbers as at

* Mr. Kinglake states the losses in the battle alone to have been as follows;—British, two thousand three hundred and fifty-seven (with a few prisoners); French, nine hundred and twenty-seven; and Russian, ten thousand seven hundred and twenty-nine.

the Alma, was proportionately much greater, allowing for the diminished strength of the regiment, which on the morning of the 5th had numbered only four hundred and thirty-three officers and men. Captain Butler (the D.A.A.G. of the 1st Division) and sixteen rank and file were killed; Colonel Warren, Lieutenant-Colonel Daubeney, Captain R. Hume, and Lieutenants Barnston and Morgan, together with five serjeants and sixty-four rank and file, were wounded, many of them dangerously, and two privates were missing, and were never afterwards heard of; making a total loss of ninety-three officers and men.* The 2nd division suffered so severely that the 1st brigade, consisting of the 30th, 55th, and 95th Regiments could muster only seven hundred men on the day after the battle, while the whole division had only six field officers and twelve captains fit for duty!

We may not inappropriately close our account of the battle of Inkerman with the following summing up by the author before quoted: "If it is considered that the soldiers who met the furious columns of the Czar were the remnants of three British divisions which scarcely numbered eight thousand five hundred men; that they were hungry and wet and half famished; that they were men belonging to a force which is generally 'out of bed' four nights out of seven; which had been enfeebled by sickness, by severe toil, sometimes for twenty-four hours at a time without relief of any kind; that among them were men who had within a short time previously lain out for forty-eight hours in the trenches at a stretch, it will be readily admitted that never was a more extraordinary contest maintained by our army since it acquired a reputation in the world's history."

For this victory Lord Raglan was promoted to the rank of Field Marshal, a medal was ordered to be struck with a clasp for Inkerman (as well as Alma), and as a mark of the Queen's

* It is difficult to particularize individual acts of gallantry when, as in this case, every one was a hero; but we must not omit to mention that among many who were noticed for their bravery were Sergeant Walker and Private Beach, of the 55th, the latter receiving the Victoria Cross for having rescued Colonel Carpenter of the 41st, who was lying on the field horribly wounded, from the savage brutality of several Russians, and the former being rewarded with the medal for distinguished conduct in the field with an annuity of £10, which he still lives to enjoy.

recognition of the meritorious services of her non-commissioned officers Her Majesty directed that a serjeant should be selected from every regiment in the Crimea for promotion to a commission, to be dated the 5th November, 1854. Quarter-Master Serjeant Scott was the fortunate recipient of his sovereign's favour in the 55th Regiment. That Her Majesty did not forget to note the valour of the privates of her army the following extracts of the despatch conveying the Queen's thanks to her soldiers will shew :—

“The Queen desires that your Lordship will receive her thanks for your conduct throughout this noble and successful struggle, and that you will take measures for making known her no less warm approval of the services of all the officers, non-commissioned officers, and soldiers, who have so gloriously won by their blood, freely shed, fresh honours for the army of a country which sympathizes as deeply with their privations and exertions as it glories in their victories and exults in their fame. Let not any private soldier in those ranks believe that his conduct is unheeded. The Queen thanks him ; his country honours him.

“Proud of the victory won by her brave army, grateful to those who wear the laurels of this great conflict, the Queen is painfully affected by the heavy loss which has been incurred, and deeply sensible of what is owing to the dead : those illustrious men cannot indeed receive the thanks of their Sovereign, which have so often cheered the soldier in his severest trials, but their blood has not been shed in vain. Laid low in their grave of victory, their names will be cherished for ever by a grateful country, and posterity will look upon the list of officers who have fallen as a proof of the ardent courage and zeal with which they pointed out the path of honour to no less willing followers.

“The Queen sympathizes in the loss sustained by the families both of her officers and soldiers ; but Her Majesty bids them reflect with her and derive consolation from the thought that they fell in the sacred cause of justice and in the ranks of a noble army.”

And now that the steed was stolen, the stable door was to be locked. A parapet was at once commenced, right along the ridge covering the 2nd division, by large working parties of the Turks, under the direction of the Royal Engineers. The two heavy guns that had done such good service were retained in their positions, and two similar ones were placed on the left of the parapet, so as to command between them the whole front.

Winter was now setting in with unusual rigour, and the horrors of that eventful period must ever prove a sad page in the history of the Crimean campaign. Cold brought sickness and disease, and diminished numbers brought harder work for those who remained fit for duty. Horses died from exposure and lessened the means of transport, and this caused a scarcity

of provisions and forage. Fuel was almost unobtainable, and yet unground and unroasted coffee was issued to the soldier, who, to obtain a warm meal, frequently plucked, at a risk to his back, the brushwood from the fascines and gabions wherewith to make a fire. His camp presented a cold, dreary, and miserable appearance; and matters became at length so bad that the siege operations were virtually suspended from sheer inability on the part of the besiegers to carry it on. The weather was so severe that many were found frozen to death in their tents, and in midwinter the deaths in the British army alone averaged one hundred daily! On the 1st February, 1855, the strength of the infantry fit for duty had dwindled down to twelve thousand eight hundred and five men, and this notwithstanding heavy drafts which had reinforced the army since its landing on the Crimean shores. It was not only the allied army which suffered during this long dreary winter, the Russians themselves felt its hardships so much that, to compensate for their sufferings, the Czar allowed each month of the siege to be counted by his soldiers as a year's service.

CHAPTER IX.

The 34th Regiment had now appeared upon the scene. After a few moves in Lancashire and Yorkshire, it, on the 22nd August, 1854, proceeded from Sheffield to Portsmouth, where it embarked for the Mediterranean station, and on the 8th September landed at Corfu. Here it remained for a couple of months, when it was ordered to the Crimea; but the regiment had soon after its arrival from the West Indies been so depleted of its best men by giving volunteers to other corps proceeding to Turkey, that it at this time mainly consisted of young soldiers, and nearly two hundred of its numbers were left at Corfu, being considered as unfit for the present to undergo the hardships of the Crimean winter. The 34th, numbering twenty-one officers, thirty-five serjeants, eleven drummers, and five hundred and fifty-four rank and file, under the command of Major Goodenough, embarked on the 22nd November, and landed at Balaklava on the 9th December. On arrival at the front, they joined the 1st brigade of the light division, and at once took up their share of trench and other duties.

As the spring set in, matters began to look a little brighter for the British, and every one began to warm again to the work before them. Constant firing took place between the batteries, and the Russians, who were pushing their works towards the allied lines, made frequent sorties upon them. One of these was made at about eleven o'clock on the night of the 22nd March, 1855, in great force on three different points, and, in the darkness of the night, almost reached the advanced trenches before they were discovered. The 34th on this occasion had an enormous force to contend with. Lieutenant Jordan (who was especially noted for his gallantry) and two men were killed, six were wounded, and their brave Colonel Kelly was shot down and carried off a prisoner into Sebastopol with four of his men, and it was not until after an hour's hard fighting that the enemy were repulsed. The British loss was eighty-five killed, wounded, and missing. The French, who

received the principal attack, and turning on the enemy captured three of their rifle pits, lost six hundred and forty-two; while that of the Russians was estimated at from one thousand two hundred to one thousand four hundred men, four hundred of whom were found dead on the field.

On the 4th April the 55th marched from Inkerman and encamped in rear of Cathcart's Hill, to the left of the light division, the French having relieved the 2nd division of guarding the right of the allied position, so that they were now on both flanks of the line, with the British in the centre. On the 9th (Easter Sunday) the second bombardment of Sebastopol commenced, and continued for six days; but as the enemy were enabled, by the vast resources at their command, to repair during the night the damage caused by the allies during the day, it ended, as did the first, without any decisive result. The siege however progressed, and on the 19th portions of both 34th and 55th were engaged at the capture of Egerton's rifle pits, and suffered losses, the latter having Lieutenant Trevor and six men wounded, the officer dangerously.

In June it was determined to effect the capture of the Mamelon and the Quarries in front of the Redan, and preparatory to this, the third bombardment was commenced on the 6th to reduce the fire of the place. As the guns of the former enfiladed the latter, it had been arranged that the British were not to attack the Quarries until the French had obtained possession of the Mamelon. Following out a well-arranged programme, the French attacked shortly before 7 p.m. on the 7th, and as soon as they had established themselves, Lord Raglan gave the signal for the British to advance. The storming party, commanded by Lieutenant-Colonel Campbell of the 90th Regiment, consisted of four hundred men taken in equal proportions from the 2nd and light divisions, with the 62nd Regiment, six hundred strong, in support. Both the 34th and 55th were thus among the stormers, and in almost equal numbers, the latter having five officers and one hundred and sixty men, and the former seven officers and one hundred and seventy men engaged in the combat.

Rushing out from the flanks of the advanced trench, the stormers dashed into the Quarries without firing a shot, driving out the enemy, who, panic stricken, scarcely resisted at the point of the bayonet, and following them towards the Redan. But in a few moments they recovered from their confusion,

and turning upon their assailants, in a desperate hand-to-hand struggle, by mere weight of numbers forced the British back into the Quarries, and out on the other side. There now commenced one of the most sanguinary struggles that took place on Crimean soil. Turning like enraged lions at bay, the British charged with such fury that the front ranks of the enemy shook again, yet it was of no use, back they were forced, although it was but slowly ; but gathering strength, they hurled themselves a second time on the Russians with such vigour as to send them a second time out of the Quarries ; again the enemy forced them back, and for the third time did the infuriated soldiers fling themselves upon the Russians like a surging hurricane, and drove them out in total disorder. During the whole of this time the different batteries on both sides had been pounding away at a terrific rate, and when the Russians could spare the time, which was happily very seldom, they sent their shot bowling right into the Quarries and into the ranks of the British.

Every one had now to set his hand to turn the gabions, and throw up a parapet to defend the place, but soon the reserves came in with a working party of eight hundred men, and the stormers and supports went out in the front as a covering party, and by the morning the Quarries were regularly connected with the British advanced trenches, and the post made tolerably secure. But this was not easily done. It was too much to expect the Russians to be satisfied without another attempt to dislodge them, and at about nine o'clock they were observed moving stealthily towards the Quarries ; the defenders were, however, prepared, and poured so heavy a fire upon them that they retired. In an hour, however, they came on again, and this time there was hotter fighting than before, but they were beaten off ; yet another attempt was made, and this time they were so successful as to penetrate almost to the Quarries, and in a hand-to-hand fight with bayonets scraping and grinding together, the combat raged furiously between them and the covering parties, until at last they were forced to retreat with enormous loss. Still, however, in spite of all these failures, the Russians seemed determined to give their opponents no rest ; and in increased strength, for a fourth and a fifth time, did they come up, although only to meet with repulse. It was now past midnight, and the gallant band who had so valiantly withstood all these attacks, with, on each

occasion, diminished numbers, thought that now surely they would be left in peace; but they had not done yet. Between three and four o'clock in the morning the Russians made their last attempt, supplemented by a regular storm of shot from their Strand Battery, which swept every spot within its range; but the enraged British not only hurled them back for the last time, but making an attack in turn, drove them right into the Redan, which seems to have been on this occasion very poorly defended, and might have been captured quite easily. But as this too was enfiladed by the guns of the Malakoff, it would have been a useless proceeding, and the recall having been sounded, they ensconced themselves within the Quarries, and remained unmolested during the remainder of the night.

As might be expected, the casualties of the allies during this night's work were very great. At the capture of the Mamelon the French losses numbered two thousand seven hundred and ninety, and in the different combats in and about the Quarries the British lost thirty-six officers and four hundred and fifty-six men killed and wounded. Of these numbers, the detachments of our two regiments contributed very largely. Of the 34th, Lieutenant Lawrence and ten men were killed; Major Simpson, Captains Peel and Brown-Westhead, Lieutenant Saunders, and thirty-one men were wounded; and five men were missing; making a total loss of fifty-one officers and men. The 55th, who were especially commended for their conduct during that eventful night, lost Lieutenant Stone (who fell charging at the head of his men), and twenty-one men killed; and Lieutenant Scott and thirty men wounded; a total of fifty-three officers and men. Thus, out of a strength of twelve officers and three hundred and thirty men which the two regiments sent into action, seven officers and ninety-seven men, or nearly a third of their numbers, were rendered *hors-de-combat*.

Fresh batteries were now erected against the Redan and Malakoff, and in consequence of the near approach to these works the daily list of casualties began to be much heavier, especially in the British trenches, which had been pushed up to within four hundred yards of the Redan. After much preparation, it was decided to attack these two works on the 18th June, the assault to be preceded by as heavy a bombardment as the allies could pour upon them during the whole of the previous day, which was to be resumed for the three hours

after dawn on the 18th, in order to destroy any works the enemy might throw up during the night, as well as to silence their guns, and also to prevent any large accumulation of troops within the Redan and Malakoff to repel the allied attack. Further arrangements provided that, as the guns of the latter completely commanded the former, the British were not to advance until the French had obtained possession of the Malakoff.

The British assault was made in three columns of four hundred men each from the 2nd, 4th, and light divisions, the right, consisting of four hundred of the 34th Regiment, under Captain Gwilt, and the left of a similar number of the 57th Regiment, were to assault the flank faces of the Redan, while two hundred each of the 41st and 62nd Regiments were to assault its salient angle as soon as the others succeeded in effecting a lodgment. Another column was to make a demonstration against the Russian works at the head of the Dockyard Creek; so that, with three columns of assault from the French attack in addition, the enemy would have plenty of work to engage his attention. But this plan was departed from. On the evening of the 17th General Pelissier, now the Commander-in-Chief of the French Army, waited on Lord Raglan and wished him to alter the hour of attack, and much against his lordship's conviction it was determined to attack at 3 a.m. instead of six o'clock.

Shortly before the named hour, while it was yet dark, and before the signal for the French to advance was given, one of their columns, led by General Mayran, attacked the batteries on the extreme right. The Russians were soon on the alert, and being able to concentrate their fire on this column were not long in repulsing it in extreme disorder. General Pelissier, as soon as possible, gave the signal for the advance of the other columns, but the enemy having been put completely on the *qui vive* by the premature attack of General Mayran poured forth so heavy a fire of shot, shell, grape, and musketry, that they were quite staggered, and after repeated attempts, with varying fortunes, they were at length compelled to retire into their trenches. During the height of the French attack Lord Raglan thinking to divert their attention a little gave the signal for the British to advance. The light and 4th division stormers at once leaped over the parapet and rushed to the flanks of the Redan, but they were quite prepared for their appear-

ance, in fact the work was filled with the enemy's troops, who seemed to be waiting for them, and they at once opened upon them a murderous fire of grape and musketry which almost swept them away. For a time they persevered under awful difficulties, but their losses had so weakened them that after some fruitless attempts to make a further advance they also were compelled to retire to the trenches. About this time it was observed that the French had been repulsed at the Malakoff, and as it was no use persevering in the assault, as they could not have held the Redan had they succeeded in effecting its capture, the troops were recalled. General Eyre's column had been successful in its attack upon the enemy's positions at the head of the Dockyard Creek, but on the failure of the other columns Eyre could not advance, neither in the open daylight could he retrace his steps; he was therefore obliged to remain all day exposed to a galling fire until darkness set in and he was able to return to the trenches.

The 2nd division stormers did not leave the trenches, because, as before stated, they were only to assault in the event of the flank attacks proving successful, and the 55th, who, with the 1st Royals, formed the 2nd division supports, were so fortunate as to have only one casualty, a serjeant who was severely wounded by a grape shot. But it was different with the 34th. The murderous *mitraille* to which they had been exposed had rendered more than three-fourths of their numbers *hors-de-combat*. Captains Shiffner and Robinson, Lieutenants Hart and Alt, and fifty men were killed; Captains Gwilt, Warry, and J. Jordan, Lieutenants Clayton, Harman and Peel, and two hundred and sixty-four men were wounded, making a total of ten officers and three hundred and fourteen non-commissioned officers and men who fell before the frowning ramparts of the Redan.

As soon as the troops got under cover the whole of the batteries opened fire upon the enemy's works, and with such good effect that in less than an hour their guns were almost silenced, and then was seen the error of not having had the bombardment previous to the assault. When, therefore, Lord Raglan saw their fire subdued he proposed to General Pelissier to make another attack, with fresh troops, after a few hours longer bombardment, but the French were so dispirited with their reverses that Pelissier considered the risk too great to attempt it in their present mood, and consequently, as the

British, who were quite ready for a renewal of the conflict, could not attack alone, the proposition was abandoned. These sad events caused to the British a loss of one thousand five hundred and fifty-three killed and wounded, including one hundred officers; the French lost three thousand and fifty-one, whilst the Russians owned to the loss of five thousand seven hundred and seventy-six, which was with good reason believed to be much understated. Of the many who distinguished themselves by their gallant conduct, there were of the 34th Lieutenants Boyce and Peel, Colour-Serjeants Smith and Pruth, Corporal Coughlan (the two latter assisted in carrying a scaling ladder, when the fire of the enemy was so heavy that nearly all the bearers were either killed or wounded); Private Gill, noted for tying up Captain Gwilt's arm under a heavy fire; and Private Sims, who, when the regiment had retired into the trenches, nobly went out into the open and brought in several wounded men from under the enemy's fire, for which he was rewarded with the Victoria Cross.

On the 26th June Lord Raglan, who had been for some time indisposed from dysentery, became much worse, and gradually sinking, died at about 9 p.m. on the 28th, to the intense grief of the whole army.

Nothing of importance occurred for some time. The whole work of the British, now commanded by General Simpson, was to push forward their saps and to strengthen and improve their trenches, so as to afford better cover to the men from the fire of the works at so short a distance in their front, and from which they were suffering severely. The enemy were, moreover, continually making sorties, though not in great force; and the 55th, in one of these (on the 4th August) had one officer (Lieutenant Stone, who died two days afterwards) and eighteen men wounded.

Early on the morning of the 16th the Russians made their last desperate attempt upon the rear of the allied position, in the hope of compelling them to raise the siege; but they were met on the banks of the river Tchernaya by the French and Sardinians, who were guarding the right flank, and after a terrific battle, which lasted until mid-day, they were obliged to retire unsuccessful. The next morning the allied batteries again opened a furious bombardment, chiefly, however, against the Redan and Malakoff, in order to silence some guns which obstructed the progress of the saps, which had advanced to

nearly two hundred yards from the former ; and this having been accomplished sufficiently by the 19th, the advancement of the saps was proceeded with. The casualties on both sides were now growing frightfully prodigious : the British lost in the trenches an average of two hundred and fifty weekly, but the French loss averaged one hundred and seventy *daily*, of which the possession of the Mamelon alone cost one hundred ; while the Russians acknowledged their casualties, from the 17th to the 31st August, to amount to the astonishing number of eleven thousand men ! It was evident to all that the end was approaching.*

The British advanced trenches were now only one hundred and ninety-six yards from the salient angle of the Redan, which was as near as they could go, partly on account of the rocky nature of the ground and partly because, if they were any nearer, they would be completely enfiladed by the guns of the Malakoff. The French had, however, approached quite close to the abattis round the Malakoff, and were only thirty yards from its ditch. It, therefore, became imperative that the assault should take place as soon as possible ; and at a Council of War on the 3rd September, it was determined to open fire from the batteries on the 5th, and to keep up a continuous fire until noon on the 8th, when the works were to be attacked. Accordingly, at the appointed time the whole of the allied batteries, to the number of one hundred and fifteen, containing in all eight hundred and three pieces of ordnance, opened a tremendous cannonade. The arrangements for the assault were as follows :—Three columns from the French right, or Inkerman attack, were to advance at mid-day and assault the Malakoff and the adjacent batteries, two others at the same time from their trenches on the left, and one column from the British in the centre, which was to attack its immediate front as soon as those on the right had made good their footing in the Malakoff, which was to be notified them by the signal of the French Tricolour displayed from that work.

* Early in August it had been discovered that the Russians were constructing a floating bridge across the harbour ; and after their defeat at the Tchernaya, on the 16th, their exertions to complete it appeared to be redoubled.

The British, with whom we have chiefly to do, directed their energies on this occasion solely against the salient angle of the Redan, where a tolerable breach had been made by the artillery. The stormers consisted of one thousand men, taken in equal numbers from the 2nd and light divisions, preceded by a covering party of two hundred men, and a party of three hundred and twenty men carrying scaling ladders, the whole to be supported by two regiments of each division with the remainder in reserve in the trenches. The 1st, 3rd, 4th, and Highland divisions were held in reserve in the rear. At about 7 a.m. on the 8th, the 2nd and light divisions moved down to the trenches and took up their respective positions. The whole forenoon the batteries poured a most tremendous fire upon the Redan and Malakoff, but towards noon it was slackened a little in accordance with somewhat of an usual custom, in order to mislead the Russians; and precisely at twelve o'clock, the French rushed out of their advanced trench, and in two or three minutes were inside the Malakoff. The enemy there were quite taken by surprise, but elsewhere they were soon on the alert, and the other two French columns on the right received so heavy a reception that they were forced to retire into the trenches. The Russians were not, however, disposed to lose the key to their defences so easily, and made repeated attacks upon the Malakoff with enormous masses of men, but the French established themselves so firmly that they had no chance of taking it again.

At about ten minutes past twelve, General Pelissier gave the agreed-upon signal to General Simpson, and almost immediately afterwards the British rushed over the parapet towards the Redan. The ladder and storming parties gallantly dashed on the salient angle, and under a heavy fire of grape crossed the ditch, mounted the breach, and got into the body of the work, the supports immediately following. The Redan was open to the rear, except that across the gorge was a light parapet, and behind this the Russians were soon forced to retire, from which, however, they kept up a galling fire; but they quickly brought up reinforcements, and a large column of infantry was formed up in rear of it, and continued to pour an overwhelming fire upon their assailants who were assembling in the salient angle, great numbers of whom were falling, killed or wounded, every moment. Fresh bodies of men continued to arrive, but as they were disordered by the terrible fire

of the flank defences as they crossed from the trenches, which cost them nearly half their numbers, and there being no cover inside the Redan to form up except the little to be obtained among the traverses, they only added to the general confusion. By this time almost all the officers had been killed or disabled, except Colonel Windham, and he tried to form up the men to charge the Russians behind the parapet, but they were almost immediately swept away by the enemy's fire; and as no further support had arrived in answer to his pressing appeals for reinforcements in formation, he went himself to General Codrington for aid. But his three messengers had never reached the General, and as the reinforcement he was taking back was getting out of the trench, it was seen that the few survivors of those who had penetrated into the Redan, and held it against such fearful odds for more than an hour, had been forced to retire before the overwhelming force of the enemy. It was, therefore, useless to assault again without reorganizing the columns, and this, from the state of the trenches, crowded as they were with dead and wounded, it was impossible to do.

The French, on the left, had fared as disastrous as the British, for they had met with so withering a fire as to be quite overpowered and scarce got out of their trenches. The Russians made repeated attempts during the day to recapture the Malakoff, but were in all unsuccessful, so that although it had been so disastrous a day for the allies in general, five out of the six columns of attack having met with defeat, the capture of the Malakoff by the successful column accomplished the object of them all, as from its commanding so many of the enemy's works, they had now become quite untenable.

The loss of the combatants was, as might be expected, very great indeed. That of the British amounted to twenty-nine officers and three hundred and thirty-six men killed, one hundred and twenty-four officers and one thousand seven hundred and sixty-two men wounded, and one officer and one hundred and seventy-five men missing, making a total loss of one hundred and fifty-four officers and two thousand two hundred and seventy-three men. The French lost in killed, wounded, and missing, four hundred and nine officers and seven thousand one hundred and forty-eight men; while that of the Russians was acknowledged to have been three hundred and sixty-two

officers and eleven thousand three hundred and twenty-eight men ; but as usual, it was with good reason believed to have been much greater.

The 55th figured largely in this roll. Brevet Lieutenant-Colonel Cuddy (who fell at the head of the regiment), two corporals, and twenty-four privates were killed ; Colonel Warren (who commanded the 2nd division supports, composed of the 30th and 55th Regiments), Major Cure, Captains R. Hume, J. R. Hume, and Richards, Lieutenants Morgan and Johnson, eight serjeants, fourteen corporals, and ninety-two privates were wounded, of whom thirteen died a few days after, and two privates were missing, making a total loss of one hundred and fifty officers and men, the heaviest loss the regiment had suffered during the campaign. Many instances could be noticed of individual heroism displayed by the men of the regiment, but only one or two can be here alluded to. Drummer Doyle highly distinguished himself by standing on the top of the Redan and sounding the "Advance" on his bugle amidst a perfect storm of grape and musketry, for which gallant act he was by the French made a Knight of the Legion of Honour ; Private Seabright (one of those returned as missing) was last seen also on the top of the Redan waving his rifle defiantly at the Russians, which bore a Union Jack handkerchief, through which he had passed his bayonet ; and Colour-Serjeant Hendrick distinguished himself by the gallant manner in which he commanded and brought his company out of action when all the officers had been rendered *hors-de-combat*.

The 34th, under Colonel Goodenough, had eight men killed, and Lieutenants Harris and Dyson-Laurie and fifty-three men wounded, of whom four died shortly afterwards. Amongst others noted for their gallant conduct Serjeant Canny and Private Loft were especially commended for carrying in a wounded serjeant of the regiment, under a very heavy fire from the enemy.

It had been determined to renew the assault next morning, but during the night it was discovered that the Redan had been deserted by the enemy, and from numerous explosions of magazines, &c., taking place, as well as several conflagrations in the town, it was evident something unusual was about to be done by them, and when morning broke on the 9th it was found that they had abandoned all their positions and evacuated

the town, after having set fire to it; the fleet had also been sunk in the harbour, and the bridge of boats by which they had crossed to the north side had likewise disappeared. The Russians had at last succumbed to the crushing fire of the allies; and after having suffered incredible hardships with indomitable courage and hardihood, the British and French found themselves victors in a siege unparalleled in history, and their colours waved proudly over the enemy's stronghold, Sebastopol.

There being now no more trench-work, the troops were employed making roads and in destroying all the remaining forts, docks, and public buildings in the town, which latter duty occupied more than five months. On the 10th November General Sir James Simpson resigned the command of the British army in the East, and General Sir William Codrington commanded in his stead. The war soon languished, further proceedings being stayed on the approach of winter; but the British army presented a very different appearance to that borne by it during the preceding winter; well hutted, well fed, and well clothed, and with no harassing duties to perform, no one would have taken the troops to have been the same race of men as the sickly careworn soldiers who guarded the trenches during the winter of 1854-55, and at no period of the war was the British army in so prime a condition and so fit for the performance of any duties which might be assigned to it as at this time. With the French it was very different, for they were worse off in the matter of food and clothing than they had ever been before, fever raged amongst them, and during this winter of 1855-56 one-fifth of their numbers succumbed to disease.

During the month of December the Emperor Alexander visited the north side of Sebastopol, and finding it as his generals had reported fast becoming untenable from the heavy fire still poured upon it by the allies on the south, saw the uselessness of holding out any longer, and intimated his willingness to negotiate a peaceful settlement. An armistice was first arranged in February to last for thirty days, and the treaty of peace was signed at Paris on the 30th March, 1856, which was celebrated in the Crimea on the 2nd April with a salute of one hundred and one guns. Thus ended a struggle which, whether for the perseverance and heroic bravery of the assailants, or the obstinate defence of their opponents, will

ever be regarded as one of the most memorable in military history.

We may fitly close our narrative of the Crimean campaign with some information respecting the losses of the British army during the two years of the war, and also of the two regiments whose exploits we are more particularly recording. The following return shews the number of officers and men embarked for the East up to the end of March, 1856 :—

Branches.	Officers.	N. C. Officers, Trumpeters, & Drummers.	Farriers and Rank and File.	Total.
Cavalry	427	479	7814	8720
Artillery	388	443	10280	11111
Engineers & Sappers & Miners...	95	81	1563	1739
Infantry	2995	4001	69298	76294
Total sent to the East.....	3905	5004	88955	97864

The casualties among these numbers (brought down to the 30th April, 1856) are given in the following return :—

Distribution.	Cavalry.		Artillery.		Engineers.		Infantry.		Total.	
	Officers	Men	Officers	Men	Officers	Men	Officers	Men	Officers	Men
Killed in action	9	114	11	121	9	32	125	2331	154	2598
Died of wounds	4	26	1	52	6	23	73	1832	84	1933
Died of disease	23	1007	10	1298	5	175	105	13414	143	15394
Total deaths ..	36	1147	22	1471	20	230	303	17577	381	20425
Total wounded	26	237	30	632	13	86	435	10406	504	11361
Number of those who suffered amputation.	1	22	1	32	2	7	34	810	38	871

The following returns shew the strength of the 34th and 55th Regiments on their embarkation for the East, their subsequent increase and decrease, and their strength on the 1st April, 1856, with their losses in killed and wounded :—

Corps.	Date of Embarkation of Head Quarters.	Strength on Embarkation.		Reinforcements.		Total.				Died in the East.		Invalided.		Other Casualties.		Total.		Strength on 1st April, 1866.	
		Officers	Men	Officers	Men	Officers	Men	Officers	Men	Officers	Men	Officers	Men	Officers	Men	Officers	Men	Officers	Men
34th Foot	22nd Nov., 1854	26	*793	37	474	63	1267	8	270	25	279	..	5	33	564	30	713		
55th do.	10th May, 1854	32	894	44	624	76	1518	12	370	34	310	4	23	41	693	26	810		

• These numbers include five officers and one hundred and ninety-three men left at Corfu on the 24th departing for the Crimea, and which rejoined the regiment in February, 1855.

Corps.	Killed in action.			Wounded.									Total loss in killed and wounded.			
	Died of wounds.			Wounded in addition to foregoing.			Total.									
	Officers.	Serjeants.	Rank and File.	Officers.	Serjeants.	Rank and File.	Officers.	Serjeants.	Rank and File.	Officers.	Serjeants.	Rank and File.	Officers.	Serjeants.	Rank and File.	Total all ranks
34th Foot,	5	1	70	2	3	44	16	15	814	18	17	358	23	18	428	469
56th do.	5	3	84	1	3	55	17	30	394	18	53	379	23	36	403	622

A General Order, dated Horse Guards, 16th October, 1855, conveyed the Queen's gracious command for the 55th Regiment to bear on its regimental colour the words "Alma" and "Inkerman," in commemoration of its gallant conduct at those battles, and that both the 34th and 55th Regiments should bear the word "Sevastopol," as a memorial of the arduous and successful operations which led to the reduction of that fortress.

Early in May, 1856, the different regiments of the British army commenced to leave for their several destinations, and on the 12th July the Crimea was finally evacuated, the 50th Regiment being the last to embark at Balaklava. The 34th embarked on the 14th June, and landing at Portsmouth on the 11th August proceeded to the camp at Aldershot, from whence they shortly afterwards moved to Glasgow, and from thence to Edinburgh. The 55th were not so fortunate as to be sent home just yet. They left the Crimea on the 21st May, and on the 4th June landed at their old station, Gibraltar, where they received a very cordial reception from the inhabitants. The regiment however remained only fifteen months on "the rock," and on the 1st and 2nd September, 1857, embarked in two divisions for England, and on arrival at Portsmouth was sent on to Cork, where they landed on the 11th and 12th of the same month, and on the 21st the head-quarters of the regiment entered Enneskillen, where they were stationed.

CHAPTER X.

By the time the 55th reached home the 34th had again embarked for foreign service, having proceeded to India to help to put down the mutiny which had broken out among the native regiments of Bengal. The first act of revolt happened at Berhampore on the 26th February, 1857, but little notice was taken in England either by the Government or the East India Company of the occurrence, or of those fitful rumours which reached our shores respecting the discontented and excited condition of the Bengal army, until on Saturday the 27th June a telegram was received by the Board of Directors announcing that from Calcutta to Lahore the native regiments were in open and undisguised revolt. This awakened the authorities to a sense of their responsibilities, and on the same day the Calcutta mail of the 19th May brought a hurried and imperfect description of the Meerut and Delhi massacres, which sent a thrill of horror throughout the whole country. Troops were immediately placed under orders to proceed to Bengal, the first reinforcement embarking on the 1st July (only four days after the receipt of the news); and from this time until the end of August a continuous stream of soldiers by regiments and drafts poured out of England, until a total of thirty-one thousand two hundred and seventy-four men were on their way to avenge the atrocities of the rebels. The 34th, moving from Edinburgh to Portsmouth, embarked on the 24th August on board the *Golden Fleece*, under the command of Colonel R. D. Kelly, with a strength of thirty officers and seven hundred and fifty-five men, and arrived off Calcutta on the 17th October.

Without going into a history of this great mutiny, we must, for the better understanding of subsequent events, go back a little in our narrative. The long pent-up fires of rebellion had at length burst forth on the 10th May, 1857, Meerut being the first station disgraced by those scenes of cruelty and murder which Englishmen even now cannot think of without feelings of horror and indignation. From thence it rapidly spread

throughout the whole of the north-west provinces and Bengal. Station after station was fired and plundered, officers were shot down, women outraged, and, with their children, murdered with every conceivable cruelty; and by the middle of June there were not less than one hundred thousand Sepoys in open rebellion, swarming from all quarters towards Delhi, Lucknow, and Cawnpore, the chief seats of the outbreak. To stem this impetuous torrent there were only some five thousand or six thousand British troops, who were disposed in small garrisons throughout Bengal and the north-west provinces, far distant from each other, and without any power of combination for offensive or defensive purposes. However, Lord Canning, the Governor-General, set to work collecting all the troops that were conveniently at hand, and by the end of May had assembled at Calcutta six regiments from Bombay, Madras, and Burmah, two more from the Mauritius and Ceylon, and had also succeeded in intercepting four other regiments which were on their way to China. All these he despatched up country to those stations which most urgently required their aid, and his judicious efforts were so ably seconded by the military commanders that the neck of the rebellion had been broken before a single regiment from England had set foot on Indian soil.

In the meantime, General Anson,* the Commander-in-Chief, who died of cholera during the first days of the mutiny, had been succeeded by Sir Colin Campbell, and by the end of September the tide of battle turned in favour of the British: Cawnpore had been captured by General Havelock, Lucknow relieved by the same gallant General, and Delhi wrested from its rebel king; but the mutineers, dispersed through Oude and Central India, still assumed a most serious and formidable appearance, and the arrival of the expected reinforcements was anxiously looked for in order to stamp out the rebellion and give the dastardly Sepoys somewhat of their deserts. The regiments, as they arrived, were sent up to Cawnpore, seven hundred miles distant, by the Grand Trunk Road, in bullock carts, at the rate of two hundred men a day; and when all arrangements had been completed by Sir Colin, he left Calcutta on the 28th October to take command of the Oude field force destined for the relief of the still beleaguered

* Major-General the Hon. George Anson was at the time of his death Colonel of the 55th Regiment.

garrison of Lucknow, which was in camp about twelve miles from that city awaiting his arrival.

We must now retrace our steps and rejoin the fortunes of the 34th Regiment. On arriving off Calcutta they were sent up the river Hoogly to Chinsurah, from whence they a few days afterwards proceeded by rail to Raneegunge, and from this place they were despatched in detachments in covered carts to Cawnpore, where they arrived on the 23rd November, 1857, and joined the force located there under General Windham. To this officer the task of protecting Cawnpore had been assigned, as well as that of keeping open the communications from Lucknow to Allahabad. His force now consisted of about two thousand men, comprising the 34th, 64th, 82nd, and 88th Regiments, and a battalion of the Rifle Brigade, and occupied an intrenched fort covering the bridge of boats communicating with the Lucknow road.

During the middle of this month it had become known to General Windham that the Gwalior rebels under Tantia Topee were advancing upon Cawnpore, and these were so largely augmented by the 21st that their numbers amounted to twenty thousand men and thirty-eight guns, which had on the 25th advanced to within fifteen miles of the city, but on the opposite side to that on which he was posted. It therefore became necessary to check, if possible, their advance before they reached the city, and with this view the general, leaving a portion of his force to defend the intrenchment and bridge, proceeded with the remainder to Dhuboulee, a village on the Calpee road, to the north-west of Cawnpore. From this new position, at three o'clock on the morning of the 26th, he advanced to meet the rebels (having sent his baggage and camp equipage to the rear), and after a march of between seven and eight miles arrived at Bhowsee, and on the opposite side of the dry bed of the river Pandoo Nuddee discovered the advanced division of the enemy strongly posted. The troops at once moved forwards in the following order:—Brigadier-General Carthew with four companies of the 88th, and a like number of the Rifle Brigade took the right; Colonel Kelly, with his 34th Regiment, divided into wings, took the left; and the 82nd, under Lieutenant-Colonel Watson, as a reserve, kept the centre; the two former having each four guns with them. The attack was commenced by a line of skirmishers which extended along the whole front, and despite

a heavy fire of artillery from the rebels' siege and field-guns, the position was carried with a rush, as was also the village half a mile in its rear. The rebels now broke into a disorderly flight, leaving behind them three guns; but it was not considered politic to follow them further as their main body was close at hand, Windham therefore fell back towards Cawnpore, and encamped on the plain at the north-western angle of the city, which he still kept between him and the fort.

During the night the rebels had assembled their whole force, and on the following day at about noon made a sudden attack upon the front and right flank of the British position, covered with an overwhelming discharge from their heavy artillery. The troops immediately got under arms, and in spite of the heavy bombardment successfully resisted for five hours their reiterated attacks; but while their attention had been thus fully occupied the rebels penetrated into the town by the other flank, and General Windham discovered to his intense mortification that they were now about to attack the fort. He was therefore compelled to retire immediately to his intrenchments, and as nearly all the camp followers had fled at the commencement of the action, he was obliged to leave the greater portion of his baggage and camp equipage in the hands of the rebels, the 34th losing all their tents, kits, and bedding.

The fort was happily reached without much difficulty; but during the retreat through the city one of the guns was unluckily capsized in a narrow street, where it was left, as it was not thought prudent to delay the march of the troops to the intrenchment. But in the night it was determined to make an effort for its recovery, and a party of the Naval Brigade were sent under the protection of "E" company of the 34th Regiment to bring it in. Moving noiselessly into the very heart of the city (at this time in the possession of twenty thousand rebels) they found the gun, and while the men of the 34th, divided into four parties, were guarding as many approaches to the street, the seamen worked might and main to right the gun. This was soon done, and creeping along, followed by the soldiers, the sailors marched out of the city and reached the intrenchment without a shot having been fired on either side. For this very dangerous duty they received the General's best thanks, and what it must be

confessed was at that time of greater moment to them, an extra ration of rum !

The General had now to decide upon his arrangements for the morrow. He had wished to have made a night attack upon the enemy, but being unaware of the position of their artillery, he was obliged to abandon the idea and make the best defensive arrangements he could for the protection of the fort and bridge, which latter was so important to keep open his communication with Lucknow, from which even now Sir Colin Campbell was retiring with the women and children and the sick and wounded of its beleaguered garrison, which he had relieved, and brought out on his evacuating the city on the 22nd November.

He accordingly divided his force into four divisions. The first under Colonel Walpole, of the Rifle Brigade, consisting of five companies of that regiment, and two companies of the 82nd, with four guns, were to defend the advanced portion of the city on the left side of the canal ; a second, under Brigadier Wilson, with the 64th, were to hold the fort and establish a strong picquet on the extreme right ; a third, under Brigadier Carthew, with the 34th and four guns, were to hold the Bithoor road in advance of the intrenchment, receiving support, if required, from the picquet of the 64th ; while the fourth under the General himself, and the 88th, were to defend that portion of the city nearest the Ganges, and if requisite support the first division under Colonel Walpole.

Early on the morning of the 28th the troops took up their positions, but had only just done so when the enemy came on with their whole force. The rebels, who had been joined the previous evening by a force under the notorious Nana Sahib (which was followed by an immense train of rascals in search of plunder) marched to the vicinity of the intrenchment and fell upon the British positions, that of Colonel Walpole's on the left receiving the first attack. This force received them with great firmness, and after a hard fight repulsed them with a tremendous loss of life, and captured two of their eighteen-pounder guns.

Brigadier Carthew, in the centre, had a severe contest, which lasted from the morning until night. His division had at the appointed time taken up the position assigned to it, but was soon afterwards ordered to fall back upon the bridge. One company of the 34th was thrown out in skirmishing order,

with another company about one hundred yards in its rear as a support. Another was posted in a house on the opposite side of the road across the plain, and these three companies commanding the whole road towards the bridge formed a very strong position. The remainder of the 34th and the guns halted at the bridge and barricaded the road, whilst the 82nd were stationed to defend the road leading from the old Commissariat compound. The rebels kept up a very heavy fire from their eighteen-pounders both upon the bridge and its defenders, who still held their ground in spite of their severe losses, and returned their fire very effectually with two of their guns upon the bridge. Two other companies were also sent, under Lieutenant-Colonel Simpson, to defend the road from Allahabad and prevent the egress of the enemy from the city to the intrenchment, two of the guns, for which there was not room upon the bridge, accompanying this party. About mid-day General Carthew received orders to advance from the bridge and attack the enemy's guns. Moving forwards, and taking the three advanced companies with him, he cleared the front line of trees and endeavoured to push across the plain to the guns, but their infantry held possession of some huts in the front, and with his small force he found it impossible to advance any further. He, however, opened fire upon them with his artillery, and forced their guns to move farther to the rear, and then returned to his original position. The rebels were soon after seen skirting along the edge of the town in order to turn their flank, but both skirmishers and picquet held their position until five o'clock in the evening, when the enormous strength of the enemy forced them to fall back to the head of the bridge. Pushing forward the rebels succeeded in occupying some houses on Carthew's left, from which they were dislodged by one of the companies, but their numbers enabled them to reoccupy it shortly afterwards. Concentrating his force on both flanks of the bridge, the Brigadier kept up a heavy fire upon them with his guns, but they still kept working round his left until they were able to enfilade the bridge without exposing themselves to his fire, when he retired his guns about a hundred yards so as to still command the bridge and the road leading to the city. At about six o'clock the mutineers brought up their reserves and made a rush at the bridge, but although they were for a short time longer kept at bay, the losses of the 34th had been so severe that even on the

arrival of a reinforcement which had been sent for, the enemy every moment increasing in numbers pressed him so hard that, considering the post no longer tenable, Carthew retired his force and took shelter in the intrenchment. During the day his losses had amounted to three officers and twelve men killed; ten officers and sixty-five men wounded and one man was missing.

In the midst of the action Brigadier Wilson led the 64th Regiment against four of the enemy's guns which were doing such execution in Carthew's division, when, after gallantly advancing up a ravine for more than half a mile, the guns opened a terrific fire upon them. They still, however, dashed on, but when they had nearly reached the battery a bend in the ravine revealed the presence of a large body of the enemy's infantry, and they were compelled to retire with fearful loss. The action terminated by the whole British force retiring to their intrenchments, leaving the city of Cawnpore in the hands of the mutineers.

In these three days' operations the 34th suffered very severely. Lieutenant E. Jordan, Ensigns Applegate and Greer, and thirteen men were killed; Colonel Kelly, Brevet-Major J. Jordan, Captains Stewart and Cassidy, Lieutenants Holroyd, Lampen, and Cochrane, and 62 men were wounded; making a total loss of ten officers and seventy-five men killed and wounded.

During the action Sir Colin Campbell, who, on hearing the firing, had ridden in advance of his force, which was convoying the fugitives from Lucknow, arrived on the scene. His first consideration was for the safety of those he had brought down from Lucknow, and who were approaching a new scene of danger in consequence of the bridge of boats across the Ganges, over which they had to cross, being commanded by the enemy's artillery. Upon this they directed their fire at daybreak on the 29th, but the heavy guns of Captain Peel, of the Naval Brigade, and Captain Travers, of the Royal Artillery, which had the previous evening been moved into position on the opposite bank of the river, kept down their fire very effectually. The column had been halted about three miles from the river on the evening of the 28th, but next day they recommenced their march; at about noon the van of the troops crossed over, and when it became dark in the evening, the sick and wounded, and the women and children, advanced

in a long procession, which extended for six miles, and filed across the bridge, but it was not until six o'clock on the evening of the 30th that the last cart had passed over the river, the passage across having thus occupied thirty hours.

As Sir Colin could do nothing until he was rid of these encumbrances, he determined to send them on to Allahabad without delay, and on the 4th December the party—still stretching five miles in length—started on its march towards that city, escorted by six companies of the 34th Regiment under Colonel Kelly. It was a dangerous thing to intrust so large a party to the care of only five hundred men, who had to march one hundred and forty miles through a district still infested by mutinous Sepoys; but these were all the troops he could spare. They were fortunately unmolested on the road, and by making forced marches reached Allahabad in safety on the 9th, from whence, after a halt of ten days, the rescued families proceeded by steamer to Calcutta, and the 34th, after receiving some supplies to replace those captured by the mutineers, retraced their steps to Cawnpore, which they reached on the 22nd December, and rejoined the four companies which had been left there under the command of Lieutenant-Colonel Simpson. During their absence Sir Colin had on the 6th December, in a well-fought battle, cleared the city of the rebels, who had fled in every direction, and after putting it into an efficient state of defence he confided it to the care of Brigadier Inglis, in the place of General Windham, who was removed to the command of Umballa. He then, on the 24th, marched for Futtyghur, and having during the month of January, 1858, defeated and dispersed the rebels in that locality, started on the 1st February on his return journey to Cawnpore, where he arrived on the 4th, and immediately began preparations for his forthcoming campaign in Oude.

On the 10th the troops were formed into brigades and divisions, the 34th Regiment being posted to the 3rd brigade in the 2nd or Brigadier-General Lugard's division, and on the morning of the 27th the army marched out of Cawnpore, and proceeding in three marches to Bunthwa encamped about nine miles outside the city of Lucknow, from whence the 3rd brigade was detached to Meangunge, a few miles to the left, to effect the reduction of three forts which endangered the communications with Cawnpore; and this having been effected, the force rejoined Brigadier Lugard's division. On the 2nd

March Sir Colin marched with the 2nd division and some cavalry and artillery towards Lucknow, and on the following day occupied the Dilkoosha, after some little resistance on the part of the mutineers. Here he established his head-quarters. One-half of his force, under Sir James Outram, he had told off to attack the enemy on the opposite or left bank of the river Goomtee, whilst with the remainder he attacked them on the other. Each division had its particular point of attack, and when all arrangements were completed each was to move on to its work of retribution and vengeance. The 3rd brigade, consisting of the 34th, 38th, and 53rd Regiments, was commanded by Brigadier P. M. N. Guy* ; the 4th, composed of the 42nd and 93rd Highlanders and 4th Punjaub Rifles, by Brigadier the Hon. A. Hope. These two brigades formed Sir E. Lugard's division.

On the 6th General Sir James Outram came into contact with the enemy, and three days afterwards Sir Colin advanced from the Dilkoosha with Sir E. Lugard, who at once attacked the Martiniere and Banks' Bungalow, which were both captured, and the fighting once commenced continued day by day until the city was won. All the palaces and large buildings had been strongly fortified, and every house was loopholed for musketry ; a desperate defence was therefore expected ; but once in motion nothing the rebels could do could stay the advance of the avenging English. One by one all their positions were captured, and on the 14th their last stronghold, a huge pile of stately buildings called the Kaiserbagh or King's Palace, fell into the hands of the soldiers, and for twenty-four hours its enormous treasures were given up to its captors as lawful plunder. The city had yet to be cleared of a host of plundering rascals who were ever on the heels of the mutineers, and who always took care to have plenty of *loot* whichever side was worsted ; but this work was soon accomplished, and Sir James Outram having by the 19th completed his task by driving the rebels from the Moosabagh, their last position on that side of the Goomtee, Lucknow was fully in the hands of the British, and the great Indian Rebellion had received such a shock that even its most sanguine supporters must now have seen they were playing a losing game.

* Now Lieutenant-General Sir P. M. N. Guy, K.C.B., Colonel of the 55th Regiment.

Large numbers of the rebels had, however, succeeded in escaping from Lucknow, for Sir Colin could not with his force invest a city nearly twenty miles in circumference, and these spreading throughout Oude helped to swell the large bodies of armed men which still kept the field, though for a hopeless cause, and which cost both the Commander-in-Chief and the Government much anxiety and trouble. However, as soon as Lucknow was completely in the hands of the civil authorities, and the aid of the troops no longer required, Sir Colin broke up his army, and reorganizing the regiments into brigades and divisions despatched the greater number of them to those other places where their services were required. One portion under Sir E. Lugard was sent in a south-easterly direction to the relief of Azimghur, an important town two hundred and eighty miles from Lucknow; the infantry, comprising the 10th, 34th, and 84th Regiments, under Brigadier Douglas.

This town had some time previous been cleared of all the rebels, but as soon as the surrounding district had been drained of troops by the concentration of the army around Lucknow they reappeared in arms, and being afterwards reinforced by some of the fugitives from Lucknow, boldly marched to attack it. It was defended by the 37th Regiment, with some cavalry and a few guns; but these could not prevent the rebels, who numbered four thousand men, under their bold leader Koer Sing, from taking possession of the town, which they occupied on the 26th March. As soon as this news reached the city of Benares, from which Azimghur was distant fifty-six miles, Lord Mark Kerr, with four hundred and fifty men of the 13th Regiment, was despatched to their aid, who also convoyed three hundred bullock carts containing ammunition and stores for the garrison. After a heavy forced march and much severe fighting in front of the town, Lord Mark succeeded in reaching the intrenchments on the 6th April, where he remained watching the rebels until the arrival of the relieving force under Sir E. Lugard.

Sir Edward started from Lucknow on the 20th March, but on nearing the Goomtee at Sultanpore he discovered the bridge had been destroyed, and as he was unable to procure boats, he proceeded down the right bank of the river towards Jaunpore, which he reached on the 9th April. In the vicinity were some three thousand rebels with two guns, but "they had no stomach for the fight," and retired before him; but on the following day

he went after them with some horse artillery and cavalry, and inflicted upon them a serious loss, captured their guns, and dispersed them completely. He then resumed his march towards Azimghur, but these unforeseen occurrences had so retarded his advance, that he did not reach that place until the 15th April. Koer Sing seems to have thought it not prudent to wait for Sir Edward, and on the 14th, when the General was only seven miles distant, he quietly evacuated the town and moved off towards Ghazee-pore. His rear-guard had, however, not yet left the banks of the Tonse when the British came up, and an encounter took place, in which the rebels fought desperately, and it was not until after a severe struggle had taken place that they were defeated. Apprehensions now arose for the safety of Goruckpore, which lay in their line of retreat; and the 37th and 84th Regiments, with some cavalry and guns, under Brigadier Douglas, were sent in pursuit, whilst the 10th, 13th, and 34th Regiments, with the rest of the force, remained at Azimghur, under Sir E. Lugard.

On the 7th January, 1859, Lord Clyde (for the Commander-in-Chief had been in the previous August elevated to the peerage with that title) reported to the Governor-General that Oude was entirely cleared of the rebels, and that the people, with their chiefs, having made due submission to British authority, were settling down in all directions in a satisfactory manner. A large number of the rebels had, however, again escaped from his lordship by crossing the border and taking refuge in Nepaul; but the Rajah Jung Bahadoor would have none of them in his territory, and applied to the British Commander for assistance against them. Brigadier Horsford was thereupon directed to enter Nepaul, and aid him in expelling or exterminating the last remnant of those many thousands which had only a few months before held possession of the entire country of Oude; whilst Colonel Kelly, of the 34th, was despatched to the foot of the hills to prevent any attempt of theirs to return into Oude proving successful.

The 34th Regiment had moved with the Azimghur field force from that town on the previous 12th September, but on the 26th November the left wing, under Lieutenant-Colonel Simpson, was detached to Fyzabad, whither they were followed by the head-quarters on the 9th February, 1859. From this place the regiment, on the 14th, marched with a battery of Royal Artillery, a wing of the 13th Regiment, the 3rd Sikhs,

and the Jat Horse for the Trans-Gogra district, in order to seize two passes through which the rebels might return to the plains; and by the 13th March, Colonel Kelly had taken up a position with one half of his force at Boggah, on the east bank of the river Gunduk, whilst across on the other bank, at Nichnowl, he had posted Lieutenant-Colonel Simpson with the remainder. After a time both forces crossed the frontier, and on the 26th Colonel Kelly attacked the enemy at Bhootwul, and drove them back into the jungles, with the loss of four of their guns. Following them up closely, he again fell upon them on the 28th, and in a sharp action completely routed them, and captured three guns, six elephants, thirty camels, and more than three hundred horses, together with a great quantity of baggage. The rebels left four hundred dead on the field, but the 34th escaped without a single casualty. One of the chiefs, Mirza Nadir, came in directly the action was over and surrendered himself and fifty of his followers; but the others, with the Begum, the Nana Sahib, and Bala Rao, sought safety beyond the second line of hills, on the Nepaul territory. After these achievements Colonel Kelly returned towards Fyzabad; but learning that a party of rebels were at Kewanie, he sent a wing of the 34th to disperse them, which was effected on the 27th April, with the loss of only one man wounded.* The head-quarters of the 34th entered Fyzabad on the 26th, and the left wing, under Captain Puget, on the 30th May, where the regiment quietly settled down. It may be here mentioned that, during the time the troops were in Nepaul, the Commissariat fed the whole of them upon salt provisions, orders having been issued that in deference to the religious opinions of the Nepaulese, no animals were to be slaughtered in their territory.

The great rebellion had now, as a national movement, been entirely crushed; a few rebels still held out in Central India, but even they were dispersed shortly after. Their great leader, Tantia Topee, who had so long baffled our best generals, was captured on the 8th April, and on the 18th hanged at Sepree, and by the end of that month tranquillity had been restored to

* This man, Private George Richardson, was awarded the Victoria Cross for his determined courage in having, although severely wounded, one arm being disabled, closed with and secured a rebel Sepoy, armed with a loaded revolver.

India, and the reign of her Majesty the Queen, which had superseded that of the old East India Company on the previous 3rd September, was now acknowledged throughout the whole of the provinces and dominions, from the Himalayas to Cape Comorin. Honours and rewards were freely bestowed upon the commanders of the different forces, and those officers and men who had distinguished themselves during the two years of the rebellion, while the 34th Regiment was directed to emblazon on its regimental colour the word "Lucknow," in commemoration of its services during the operations which led to the capture of that important city.

In December, 1861, the 34th proceeded from Fyzabad to Seetapore and Roy Barielly, a wing being at each station, where they remained until December, 1864, when they marched for Gwalior, the capital of the dominions of the Maharajah Scindia, and under the shadow of its famous hill-fortress they remained at the cantonment of Morar until the 29th January, 1867, when they marched for Calcutta, on their having been ordered to return to England. On the following 23rd February the regiment embarked in two divisions, and on the 10th July the head-quarters landed at Portsmouth, being followed by the detachment shortly afterwards.

We must now return to the 55th, whom we left in 1857 in Ireland. After the usual service in that part of the kingdom the regiment, in June, 1860, moved across to England, and was located in the camp at Aldershot, from whence, after a twelve months stay, it proceeded to the Channel Islands, and remained divided into detachments, which held the usual posts on the islands of Jersey and Alderney until May, 1862, when it moved over to Portsmouth. While stationed in this garrison, the 55th received orders, in the autumn of 1863, to prepare for service in India. They had not expected to have gone out until the following summer, as the usual Indian reliefs had already embarked; but certain events which had occurred in New Zealand necessitated the withdrawal from India of two regiments to meet the pressing wants of the colony, and the 55th and 76th Regiments were ordered out to take their places in Bengal and Madras.

The 55th embarked in three divisions in October and November, with a total strength of thirty-five officers, nine hundred and eleven men, one hundred and ten women, and one hundred and seventy-three children, and arrived at Calcutta

in good health and spirits in February and March, 1864, where they found one hundred and ten men, volunteers from other regiments, awaiting their arrival. Their first station was Hazareebaugh,* which was then considered a fine healthy cantonment, although it appears to have changed its character lately, as it has since been condemned unfit for European troops; the 55th, however, enjoyed the best of health whilst there, and regretted leaving it in November, when after only a few months stay they were moved up country to Lucknow. This city they entered on the 13th December, and took up their quarters in the new infantry lines at Dilkoosha. Here they expected to have at least a three years stay, but to their astonishment an order was received on Friday, the 17th February, 1865, ordering them to March on the following Monday to join the Dooar field force acting against Bhootan. Accordingly, on the 20th the regiment marched out of Lucknow, with a strength of thirty-one officers and seven hundred and thirty-two men (leaving the sick and all the women and children behind), and having six officers and one hundred and eighty-four men of the two companies from Berhampore to pick up in Calcutta, and on the 23rd reached Cawnpore, the first break in their journey.

Here it may be as well to explain the cause of this sudden order to proceed on field service. On the north-eastern corner of Bengal lay a tract of land called the Dooars, in the possession of the Indian Government, which the ruler of Bhootan, the country adjoining it on the other side, had disputed their right to, and who gave vent to his feelings of animosity by making frequent raids into the territory, burning the villages, levying black-mail on their inhabitants, and often carrying them off into captivity. These proceedings caused great alarm in the tea-growing district of Gowhatty, which was in close contiguity, and the authorities, having at first tried peaceful measures by sending an envoy to remonstrate with them, were astonished to find their messengers publicly insulted by the Bhoota chiefs, and their remonstrances ridiculed. They then determined to chastise them, but forgetting that the hill tribes were never puny foes, sent only a couple of Sepoy regiments, with a few artillery and engineers, supposing these would frighten them

* A detachment of two companies also lay at Berhampore, whither they had been sent soon after disembarkation.

into submission. But the Bhooteas, although they were beaten from a position in the mountains called Dewangiri, were determined to stop if possible their further advance, and they so harassed them by night attacks and surprises, and especially by cutting off their supply of water, that the force was at length obliged to evacuate the position and retire down the pass to their camp of operations. On the way down, the Bhooteas attacked them in such numbers that the Sepoys lost courage; the retreat became a rout, and two Armstrong guns were obliged to be cast down the hill side to prevent their falling into the hands of the enemy. These, however, the Bhooteas managed to get hold of, and carried them in triumph to their capital.

Now the eyes of the authorities were opened to the importance of their enemy, and to recover their lost prestige a strong force of men and guns were forthwith despatched to the Dooars. It had been determined to carry on the war from two points; one column was, therefore, directed to operate from Cooch Behar on the left, under Brigadier-General Tytler, and the other from Gowhatty on the right, under Brigadier-General Tombs, to each of which a force of European infantry was assigned. The regiments selected were the 55th and 80th, but as the greatest amount of work was expected on the Cooch Behar side, where there had already been some severe fighting, one wing of the 55th was directed with the 80th Regiment to join that force, whilst only the right wing of the 55th proceeded to join General Tombs. The regiment, therefore, on its arrival at Cawnpore, divided into wings; and the left, consisting of sixteen officers and four hundred and twenty-three men, under Major Brown, proceeded by rail on its journey on the evening of the 23rd February.

The right wing, under Colonel R. Hume, left Cawnpore on the evening of the 25th on their long railway journey of seven hundred and thirty miles, and at about noon on the 1st March marched into Fort William, Calcutta, and was joined by the detachment from Berhampore. The 55th remained in the Fort awaiting supplies until the evening of the 4th, during which time they were inspected by His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief, Sir Hugh Rose, who, addressing them, said, "I can pay you no higher compliment, nor give a greater proof of my confidence, than selecting you to settle this affair on the frontiers, which, I am sure, you will carry

out as successfully as you have done all other operations in which you have been engaged." On the 4th the 55th moved by rail to Kooshtea, from whence, on the 8th, they proceeded in "flats" up the river Brahmapootra, and after a slow journey of thirteen days arrived off Gowhatty on the 21st, and two days afterwards encamped on the opposite or right bank of the river, where they remained three days. In this short time sickness had appeared, including a fatal case of cholera, and the Colonel had so sharp an attack of fever that when the wing moved forwards, on the 26th, he had to be carried in a dhoolie, but his heart was big enough for anything, and he gallantly led his men into the camp of operations at Koomreekhatta on the 29th, where General Tombs was awaiting his arrival. The General had quite a respectable force under his command, composed of the following corps:—14th Regiment of Native Cavalry, two batteries of artillery (one of Royal Artillery, the other Eurasian or half-caste), five companies of H.M. 55th Regiment, the 12th, 29th (Sikhs), and 44th Regiments of Native Infantry, a company of Native Sappers, and a force of Native Police, under Captain Macdonald.

No time was lost in making arrangements for the attack, for the season was already far advanced for European troops to act in such malarious districts, and on the morning of the 1st April the advanced column, consisting of Lieutenant-Colonel Richardson and the 44th Native Infantry, covered by No. 1 company of the 55th, under Captain Rowland, moved out of camp and proceeded towards the pass which led to the enemy's stronghold Dewangiri. Through this pass flowed a mountain stream, varying in depth from a few inches to four and five feet, and for some part of the way with the water stretching right across from the one side to the other. In the pass the enemy had constructed three stockades, the second of which was a very strong one, and had been built on the crest of a ridge hidden by a sudden bend of the river, but they only fired a few shots at the advanced column, and evacuating their positions retreated into their block-houses at Dewangiri. Having penetrated to a ridge opposite them Colonel Richardson bivouacked for the night, awaiting the advance of the main column. This, under Colonel Hume, of the 55th, left camp on the afternoon of the 1st, halted for the night at the mouth of the pass, and starting the next morning at daybreak joined the advanced column at 8 a.m., which again was shortly after-

wards joined by the rear column, under Lieutenant-Colonel Wroughton, of the 29th Sikhs.

The enemy's position consisted of eight block-houses, strongly built of logs of wood, interspersed with large stones placed along the crest of a long ridge of hills of very steep ascent, the faces of which had been cleared of trees and brush-wood in order that no cover might be afforded to an attacking force. The attack was, however, confined to the two block-houses on the enemy's left, they being the principal ones, and commanding the greater part of the ridge. General Tombs having ordered the attack to be made, the artillery opened fire from a position about seven hundred yards distant from the block-houses, but they made such indifferent practice that after a time they ceased firing to allow the infantry to storm the position. This was assaulted by two columns, one consisting of the 12th Native Infantry and the 29th Sikhs, covered by Captain Rowland's company of the 55th, moved against the main block-house, the other comprising a strong body of the Native Police, covered by half of Captain J. R. Hume's company of the 55th, attacked the block-house on the extreme left, whilst the remainder of the regiment were held in reserve under Major England.

The skirmishers opened fire at a distance of about seven hundred and fifty yards, and gradually creeping up the side of the hill effectually kept down the enemy's fire and prevented them making any formation to repel the assaulting columns, which were following as close in rear as circumstances would permit. Their advance had, however, been slow, owing to the steepness of the ascent and there being no cover but the little afforded by the inequalities of the ground, while the Bhooteas, who fought well, kept up a heavy and well directed fire upon them, and even attempted to charge them, but the precision of the Enfield rifle was too much for their matchlocks and bows and arrows, and they were forced to re-enter their block-houses. By-and-bye they reached a sort of natural trench, about sixty yards in front of the position where the assaulting columns took a brief rest; presently the bugle sounded the "Advance," and with a ringing cheer the troops rushed over the intervening space, and after a hand-to-hand fight of a few minutes duration those of the enemy who could do so ran off to the rear, leaving the whole ridge, at about twelve o'clock, in the hands of General Tombs, for the defenders of the other six

block-houses had hastily abandoned them on seeing the key of their position captured. It was estimated that from four to five thousand Bhootas were in position at Dewangiri under their noted chief the Tongsoo Penlow, who at the commencement of the action held the principal block-house, but shortly afterwards he left it in charge of his second in command, the Juggar Penlow, with whom there remained about five hundred men. The Juggar was killed, and of his force two hundred and fifty were killed or taken prisoners; the large number of one hundred and thirty being found dead in and about the block-houses, and of the remainder who were taken prisoners nearly all (there being very few exceptions) were severely wounded, but the greater part of the wounded had been carried off and had otherwise got away, so that their total loss could not be ascertained. General Tombs' loss had been very severe, considering the weapons the enemy were armed with, there being twelve killed and about sixty wounded, of which number the 55th had one man dangerously and two others severely wounded.

Leaving two companies and Colonel Hume at Dewangiri, the remainder of the 55th and the 12th and 29th Native Infantry returned to camp on the 3rd, whither they were followed by the remainder of the force on the 6th. During this time Colonel Hume had made two reconnoissances, proceeding each time some seven or eight miles into the interior; but no one could be seen but a few villagers, and after having destroyed the block-houses and the granaries and store-houses in their vicinity, the whole force evacuated Dewangiri and returned to Koomreekhatta. The rainy season had now set in, and it became necessary for the Europeans to get away as soon as possible. On the 8th April the 55th commenced their return march to Gowhatty, and on the 11th embarked on board the same steamer and flats that brought them up. They went down the Brahmapootra much quicker than they went up, the river being much swollen by the heavy rains, and on the 17th the head-quarters and right wing marched into Dum Dum, about eight miles from Calcutta, to remain there for the season.

Here they found the left wing, which had been particularly unfortunate in their movements, for after having been harassed by repeated counter-orders and counter-marches they were finally sent from the Cooch Behar side to Calcutta to

follow the right wing; but on their reaching Gowhatty on the 29th March they were ordered to remain there in reserve, and consequently had the mortification of not encountering the enemy after all their privation and hardship. On hearing of the fall of Dewangiri they left Gowhatty on the 4th April, and on the 8th marched into Dum Dum and awaited the arrival of the head-quarters.

The Bhootan or Assam fever had made its appearance in the 55th before it left Koomreekhatta, and it increased so rapidly that on the 25th April, eight days after its arrival at Dum Dum, there were one hundred and eight men in hospital, nearly all of whom belonged to the right wing. Scarcely a man escaped. In one month there were more than four hundred admissions to the hospital, and on the 12th June the fever reached its culminating point with one hundred and thirty-three men in hospital, and from fifty to sixty men in barracks convalescent from the fever, but attending daily as out-patients until fit to resume duty. The mortality was, as might have been expected, very high; in fact it was the highest of any regiment in India for that year. In August two companies were detached to Barrackpore, and in October four others to Calcutta, where on the 5th January, 1866, the remaining four with head-quarters followed them preparatory to returning up country to their old quarters at Lucknow. The Bhootan war was not yet finished; but the sickly state of the 55th precluded their rejoining the Dooar field force, consequently we can say nothing of the operations which were afterwards carried on against the Bhooteas. A peace was, however, concluded later in the year upon terms very advantageous to them, upon which they returned the two guns which fell into their hands the previous year. On the 13th January the regiment proceeded by rail to Benares, where it remained some days preparing for the march which the medical authorities had recommended the 55th should make for the benefit of their health, and on the 26th they marched *viâ* Jaunpore and Sultanpore for Lucknow, which was reached on the 13th February, exactly twelve months from the date of their departure for Bhootan.

Here the regiment settled down, and was blessed by a long spell of good health; but having been relieved by the 62nd Regiment, it marched on the 1st March, 1869, for a new hill station called Chukratta, and after a halt of nearly a

month at Umballa, where they took part in the military operations and reviews held in honour of the Ameer of Cabul's visit to the Viceroy's Grand Durbar, the 55th moved forwards and reached its destination, after some difficult marching, on the 2nd May. Here a difficult task was before them, none other than to form and build a new station amidst the Himalaya Mountains. The site selected was on a narrow ridge which stretched along the foot of the mountain Deobund for twenty-five miles, connecting the peaks of two others, and was of an average altitude above sea level of seven thousand feet. Only one or two huts were built when they arrived, consequently the regiment remained in tents for several months; gradually, however, huts arose all round, new roads were made, together with all the requirements of an Indian station, and so well had everything progressed that in February, 1871, Colonel Hume and the regiment received officially the thanks of the Government of India for their great and successful exertions, and in the following May His Excellency the Viceroy (Lord Mayo) paid Chukratta a visit, and personally thanked the 55th for the work they had done.

They remained at this station until the end of November, when they marched for that "graveyard of India," Peshawur, which they reached on the 24th February, 1872. During the hot seasons of their stay at Peshawur, two companies were able to avail themselves of a small sanitarium called Cherat, about forty miles distant, which materially helped to lessen the sick list of the regiment; the mortality was, however, very heavy, and higher than it had been in any year during their service in India, 1865 alone excepted. From this station they in December, 1873, marched for Roorkee and Delhi, the left half battalion proceeding to the latter station, and the head-quarters and the right half battalion to the former, at which places they both arrived on the 20th February, 1874. Here they are still quartered, waiting for the welcome order to return home, as they believe themselves entitled to be relieved, having already served, and that in ordinary times, more than eleven years in India.*

* Since the above was written, the 55th have been detailed to proceed next year to Aden to relieve the 2nd battalion 25th Regiment, there stationed, from whence they will in all probability return home

The 34th, whom we left at Portsmouth in July, 1867, where they had just landed from India, remained in that garrison until the 19th June in the following year, when they proceeded to the camp at Aldershot. Their next move was on the 19th August, 1869, when they again found themselves in camp, Shorncliffe being this time their quarters, from whence they sent detachments to Upnor Castle, Tilbury Fort, and the Isle of Grain. Here, on the 2nd August, 1871, the regiment received new colours to replace the tattered remnants of those which had been consigned to its charge in August, 1845, which were presented by Lady Airey, whose husband, Lieutenant-General Sir Richard Airey, G.C.B., had so long and so honourably commanded the 34th Regiment. On the 26th September following it proceeded to Dover to embark for Ireland, and landing in two divisions at Dublin, proceeded in detachments to the north, the head-quarters relieving the 1st battalion of the 16th Regiment at Newry on the 6th October. From these stations they proceeded, in July, 1872, to the camp on the Curragh of Kildare, where they remained until moved into garrison at Dublin, where the head-quarters arrived on the 8th July, 1873. They were however again destined for detached service, and in June, 1874, the 34th left Dublin and took up its quarters in the south of Ireland, the head-quarters being located at Kilkenny, where they arrived on the 29th, having sent detachments to Waterford, Clonmell, Carrick-on-Suir, and Dungarvon, where they still remain. After having been eight years at home, they are now expecting orders to prepare for foreign service, and will probably embark for India during the ensuing troop season.

during the spring of 1877. The 34th are also on the eve of changing quarters, they having been ordered to move, early in the month of June, to Cork, where the regiment is to be assembled, and embark in the course of a few months for India.

CONCLUDING REMARKS.

In August, 1782, the 34th and 55th Regiments, as already narrated, were attached to the Counties of Cumberland and Westmorland, and ordered to cultivate a connection with them in order to further the recruiting of the regiments; but this localization scheme so signally failed, that of late years the connection has been a merely nominal one, and few persons in the two counties were aware of the fact that two infantry regiments of the line were named after them. General Mc.Dougall's committee, in 1871, which prepared a new scheme for localizing the army, linked these regiments together in the 2nd Sub-District or Cumberland and Westmorland Brigade, and in November, 1872, two companies of the 55th arrived in Carlisle to await the formation of the head-quarters of the brigade. On the 1st April, 1873, Colonel Newdigate assumed the command, and on the 11th a similar detachment of the 34th took up its quarters in the castle, the brigade depôt was regularly formed, and the two regiments were again formally connected with the Counties of Cumberland and Westmorland.

It is to be regretted, however, that so few means are provided to render the attachment of that close nature which is necessary for the full success of the plan; but as it is still in its infancy, we may yet see it amended by permitting the regiments themselves to pay an occasional visit to the counties from whence they derive their names, which would do more to further the intentions of the originators of the scheme than the present system is ever likely to do. A couple of events which occurred somewhat recently first awakened public interest in the county regiments. On the 9th October, 1873, two sets of colours of the 34th Regiment, or rather the shot-torn and weather-worn remnants of them, were, with much solemnity, deposited in their last resting-place over the regimental tablet in Carlisle Cathedral; and on the 18th July, 1874, a Chinese standard, captured at the battle of Tingshai on

the 1st October, 1841, by a lieutenant of the 55th Regiment, was laid up in Kendal Church over the regimental memorial, and amongst the old colours placed there in 1851. This account of the services of the two regiments is submitted to the public in the hope of keeping alive this interest, and with the view of acquainting them with their history during a long and honourable career.

Our task is therefore done. We have traced the 34th and 55th from their origin to the present day, through great wars and little wars, and have faithfully recorded their failures and their triumphs; and although they are not usually classed among the "famous regiments of the British army," their achievements have been such that their counties may well be proud of them. And while we look at their actions in the past, and think of the reputation they still bear for zeal, discipline, and efficiency, we may rest assured that in the future they will keep unsullied the good name transmitted by those who wore the numbers before them, and by a faithful discharge of their duties so uphold the honour and dignity of their Queen and country as to merit their Sovereign's approval, the approbation of the superior officers under whom they may be called upon to serve, and the esteem and regard of the people of the counties of Cumberland and Westmorland.

APPENDIX.

34TH REGIMENT.

Succession List of Colonels.

Names, with Army Rank on appointment.		Date of Commission.	Cause and Date of becoming Non-effective.	Army Rank.
Colonel....	Robert, Lord Lucas.....	12th Feb., 1702	Died 31st January, 1705	Colonel
Colonel....	Hans Hamilton	1st Feb., 1705	Transferred to 16th Foot 30th Nov., 1712	Brig.-Gen.
Colonel....	Thomas Chudleigh	30th Nov., 1712	Retired by the sale of his commission 18th February, 1723	Colonel
Colonel....	Robert Hayes	18th Feb., 1723	Died 7th April, 1731	Colonel
Colonel....	Stephen Cornwallis	8th Jan., 1723	Transferred to 11th Foot 1st Nov., 1738	Colonel
Colonel....	Lord James Cavendish	1st Nov., 1723	Died, November, 1741	Colonel
Colonel....	Hon. James Cholmondeley	18th Dec., 1742	Transferred to 12th Dragoons 24th July, 1749	Major-Gen.
Colonel....	Hon. H. S. Conway	24th July, 1742	Transferred to 13th Dragoons 17th Dec., 1751	Colonel
Colonel....	Charles Russell	17th Dec., 1751	Died 20th November, 1764	Colonel
Colonel....	Thomas, Earl of Effingham	2nd Dec., 1754	Transferred to First Troop of Horse Grenadier Guards 30th October, 1760	Major-Gen.
Colonel....	Lord Frederick Cavendish	30th Oct., 1760	Resigned, July, 1797	Field-Mar.
Colonel....	George F., Lord Southampton	13th July, 1797	Died, June, 1810	Lieut.-Gen.
Lieut.-Gen.	Sir Eyre Coote, G.C.B.	25th June, 1810	Removed from the service 21st May, 1816	General
Lieut.-Gen.	Sir G. Lowry Cole, G.C.B.	21st May, 1816	Transferred to 27th Foot 16th Dec., 1826	Lieut.-Gen.
Lieut.-Gen.	Sir T. M. Brisbane, G.C.B.	16th Dec., 1826	Died	General
Major-Gen.	John Eden, C.B.	28th July, 1860	Died 6th October, 1874	General
Lieut.-Gen.	James Creagh	27th Oct., 1874		

55TH REGIMENT.

Succession List of Colonels.

Names, with Army Rank on Appointment.		Date of Commission.	Cause and Date of becoming Non-effective.	Army Rank.
Colonel...	George Perry.....	25th Dec., 1755	Died on board H. M. S. <i>Grafton</i> on his voyage to North America, May, 1857 .. Killed in action before Fort Ticonderoga, 6th July, 1758..... Killed in the trenches before Fort Niagara, 20th July, 1759 .. Transferred to 31st Foot 20th August, 1762 .. Transferred to 15th Foot 7th Sept., 1775 .. Transferred to 38th Foot 11th Dec., 1775 .. Transferred to 11th Foot 6th Nov., 1791..... Died 16th March, 1811 .. Died..... Died..... Died 15th February, 1846..... Transferred to 2nd Foot 7th August, 1846 .. Died..... Died 27th January, 1855 .. Died 7th December, 1856 .. Died (Com.-in-Chief in India) 27th May, 1857 .. Died 14th November, 1861 .. Transferred to 51st Foot 1st June, 1862 .. Died 13th December, 1873 ..	Colonel
Colonel...	George A., Viscount Howe...	28th Sept., 1757		Brig.-Gen.
Colonel...	John Prideaux	28th Oct., 1758		Brig.-Gen.
Colonel...	James A. Oughton	20th July, 1759		Major-Gen.
Colonel...	William Gasnell	20th Aug., 1762		Major-Gen.
Major-Gen.	Richard Earl of Cavan	3rd Aug., 1774		Colonel
Colonel...	Robert Pigott	7th Sept., 1775		Lieut.-Gen.
Colonel...	James Grant	11th Dec., 1775		Lieut.-Gen.
Major-Gen.	John M. Tottenham	9th Nov., 1791		Lieut.-Gen.
Major-Gen.	Donald McDonald	20th March, 1811		Lieut.-Gen.
Lieut.-Gen.	Colin Campbell	10th Oct., 1812		General
Lieut.-Gen.	Sir W. H. Clinton, G. C. B.	25th April, 1814		Major-Gen.
Major-Gen.	Lord Saltoun, K. C. B.	23rd Feb., 1846		Lieut.-Gen.
Lieut.-Gen.	John Wardlaw	7th Aug., 1846		Lieut.-Gen.
Lieut.-Gen.	John M. Hamerton	7th Dec., 1848		General
Lieut.-Gen.	Hon. Henry E. Butler	18th March, 1855		Lieut.-Gen.
Major-Gen.	Hon. George Anson	19th Dec., 1856		Lieut.-Gen.
Major-Gen.	Sir James H. Schoedde, K. C. B.	28th July, 1857		Major-Gen.
Major-Gen.	William H. Elliott, K. H.	26th Nov., 1861		Lieut.-Gen.
Lieut.-Gen.	Sir P. E. Craige, K. C. B.	1st June, 1862		Major-Gen.
Lieut.-Gen.	Sir P. M. N. Guy, K. C. B.	14th Dec., 1873		General

ROLL OF OFFICERS, 34TH CUMBERLAND REGIMENT. STATION—KILKENNY, IRELAND.

DISTINCTIONS:—*A Laurel Wreath*, "Albuherra," "Arroyo dos Molinos," "Vittoria," "Pyrenness," "Nivelle," "Née," "Orthez," "Peninsula," "Sevastopol," "Ludmora."

Rank and Names.	Date of Commission.	Army, Brevet, or Hon. Rank.	Remarks.
Colonel	James Creagh	7th Oct., 1874	
Lieut.-Col.	Hugh Howlands, V.C.	12th May, 1875	
Major	Granville W. Puget	2nd Oct., 1896	Depôt
Captain	Arthur T. L. Chapman	8th April, 1874	
Captain	Julius D. Dyson-Laurie	11th June, 1861	Adjutant R. E. Middlesex Militia
Captain	Arthur Hill	7th Jan., 1862	Brevet-Major 1st August, 1874
Captain	George Malcolm	28th Oct., 1864	Brevet-Major 16th April, 1875
Captain	Nicholas Pennetather	17th April, 1867	Adjutant 5th Lancashire Rifle Volunteers
Captain	Arthur J. Tufnell	16th Feb., 1867	
Captain	Lutley Jordan	4th March, 1868	
Captain	John O. Gage	5th Jan., 1870	Depôt
Captain	John M. Mure	31st Oct., 1871	Depôt
Captain	Philip Walker	11th May, 1873	
Captain	Charles C. Clayton	21st Sept., 1873	
Captain	Arthur A. Boggs	16th April, 1873	
Captain	George James	9th Sept., 1874	Adjutant 1st Lancashire Rifle Volunteers
Captain	Walter F. C. Gray	3rd March, 1875	
Lieutenant	Edward Varenen	8th June, 1867	
Lieutenant	William Watson	31st July, 1869	
Lieutenant	Thomas A. H. Lowe	5th Jan., 1870	Instructor of Musketry, 14th Oct., 1874
Lieutenant	Edward E. Carter	6th July, 1870	
Lieutenant	John H. Drummond	3rd Sept., 1870	Adjutant, 6th July, 1870
Lieutenant	Thurlow L. W. Dowling	5th July, 1871	Depôt
Lieutenant	Jefferson S. Wood	27th Oct., 1871	
Lieutenant	Harcourt R. Rose	28th Oct., 1871	Extra Aide-de-Camp to Lord-Lieut. of Ireld
Lieutenant	James F. Chisholm-Batten	28th Oct., 1871	
Lieutenant	Robert W. Andrews	28th Oct., 1871	Depôt
Lieutenant	Arnold H. N. U. Champion	30th Dec., 1871	
Lieutenant	Alfred R. Martin	2nd Dec., 1874	
Lieutenant	John G. S. Morris	3rd Aug., 1873	
Sub-Lieut.	Langley F. V. Tudor	9th Aug., 1873	
Sub-Lieut.	Arthur D. D. Kelly	13th Nov., 1873	
Paymaster	Terence Rowan	16th Sept., 1869	Hon. Major 16th Sept., 1869
Qr.-Master	John F. Gordon	14th Aug., 1872	Surgeon-Major 1st April, 1873
Med.-Officer.	Henry C. Feppin		

Uniform—Scarlet; Facing, Yellow. Agents—Messrs. Cox and Company.

ROLL OF OFFICERS, 55TH WESTMORLAND REGIMENT. STATION—ROORKEE, INDIA.

DISTINCTIONS :— "China" (with the Dragon), "Alma," "Inkerman," "Sevastopol."

Rank and Names.	Date of Commission.	Army, Brevet, or Honorary Rank.	Remarks.
Colonel..... Sir P. M. N. Guy, K.C.B.	14th Dec., 1873	Lieut.-General 6th Aug. 1878	Brigadier-General in India 17th Sept., 1874
Lieut.-Col. Robert Hume, C.B.	8th Oct., 1858	Brevet-Colonel 8th Oct., 1863	Chief Garrison Instructor, Lucknow
Lieut.-Col. John E. Hunt	16th Sept., 1874	.....	.....
Major William H. Richards	14th Dec., 1870	.....	.....
Major George A. Morgan	16th Sept., 1874	15th Sept., 1871	.....
Major William H. Rowland	1st April, 1875	5th July, 1872	.....
Captain Percy L. Bellamy	14th Aug., 1860	Brevet-Major 6th May, 1873	Brigade-Major, Cawnpore
Captain James F. Morton	17th Nov., 1863	.....	Depôt
Captain Mark M. Gillies	20th Feb., 1864	.....	.....
Captain O. S. Delano-Osborne	16th Nov., 1864	.....	.....
Captain George H. Harrison	8th May, 1866	.....	.....
Captain Henry W. D. Riley	4th Jan., 1868	.....	.....
Captain Alfred H. Kay	14th Oct., 1868	.....	.....
Captain Francis Barnston	5th March, 1870	.....	.....
Captain David A. Ogden	16th Sept., 1874	.....	.....
Captain Sidney Cargill	1st April, 1875	.....	.....
Lieutenant John E. Lee	17th Nov., 1863	.....	.....
Lieutenant Arthur Cook	4th June, 1861	.....	.....
Lieutenant Edward H. C. Braddon	8th May, 1866	.....	.....
Lieutenant Louis Wyatt	17th April, 1865	.....	.....
Lieutenant Walker L. Pitt	15th June, 1867	.....	.....
Lieutenant Thomas Drew	20th July, 1867	.....	.....
Lieutenant Alfred Jobling	4th Jan., 1868	.....	.....
Lieutenant Charles J. C. Inglis	14th Oct., 1868	.....	.....
Lieutenant Charles G. Brind	6th Jan., 1870	.....	.....
Lieutenant Philip Eytoun	5th March, 1870	.....	.....
Lieutenant Frederick J. W. Smith	6th March, 1870	.....	.....
Lieutenant Alexander H. Atkinson	23rd Oct., 1871	.....	.....
Lieutenant Audley W. W. Money-Kyrle	23rd Oct., 1871	.....	.....
Lieutenant Frank K. Loyd	23rd Oct., 1871	.....	.....
Lieutenant William H. Burke	23rd Oct., 1871	.....	.....
Lieutenant George F. W. MacMahon	23rd Oct., 1871	.....	.....
Lieutenant Charles H. Smith	23rd Oct., 1871	.....	.....
Lieutenant Reginald C. Hadlow	23rd Oct., 1871	.....	.....
Sub-Lieut. Ernest L. S. Charlton	13th Nov., 1872	.....	.....
Paymaster Henry Burke	14th July, 1857	Hon. Major 10th Aug., 1869	.....
Or-Master Thomas H. Vickers	27th Aug., 1873	Surgeon-Major 23rd Oct., 1867	.....
Med-Officer. Sampson Roch	9th Oct., 1869	.....	.....

Uniform—Scarlet : Facings, Lincoln Green. Agents—Messrs. Cox and Company.

BRIGADE DEPOT.

Rank and Names.		Date of Commission or Appointment.	Army, Brevet, or Honorary Rank.
Lieut.-Col.	Edward Newdigate...	1st April, 1873	Brevet-Col. 23rd Oct., 1867
Paymaster..	William Macdonnell..	1st April, 1873	Hon. Major 17th Sept., 1868
Qr-Master..	Timothy Dixon	26th July, 1873	5th February, 1861
Med. Officer	John J. Chapple, M.D.	.....	Surg.-Major, 11th May, 1875

